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The Offices of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade are at **73, Basinghall Street**, London, E.C. — registered telegraphic address, "**Advantage, London**;" Code, **5th Edition A.B.C.**; telephone number, **12807 Central**. A statement of the objects and work of the Branch will be found on p. 680.

Attention is directed to the Sample Room at the above address, the latest additions to which are the following:—

Samples.	Reference in "Board of Trade Journal." Date.	Page.
"Vegetable" Asbestos produced in Chungking	24th Dec., 1908	620
Silk from Wild Cocoons in Manchuria	17th " "	574
"Machetes" sold in Panama	" " "	546
Cardigan Jackets and "Shal" sold at Diarbekir	10th " "	494
Rice and Cotton from Bolivia	12th Nov. "	333
Cotton Goods sold in Turkey	29th Oct. "	204
Bean Oil from Japan	22nd " "	184
Filasse produced from Ramie fibre	15th " "	129
Copper Ore from Trebizond	" " "	128
Natal grown Maize	" " "	130
Cloaks and Jacket worn at Mosul	24th Sept. "	606
Tobacco-seeds from Smyrna...	17th " "	577
Cotton Prints of Spanish origin sold at Adrianople ...	10th " "	532
Braces of French make, and Hinge, Knife and Fork of American make, sold in Bahia	3rd " "	466
Ramie Fabrics woven in Wuchang	" " "	487
Rope and Twine manufactured from the Caranday Palm in Argentina...	16th July "	136
Shelf Hardware of American make sold in Canada ...	" " "	107
Polishing Grass from Antung	" " "	139
Antimony refined at Wuchow	2nd " "	35
Cigar and Cigarette Holders made from Coquilho Nuts grown in Brazil	25th June "	662
Bolts and Wire-cutting Pincers of German make, sold in Yokohama	4th " "	491

*** Particulars are given on p. 679 respecting the Register of British firms who may desire to receive **Confidential Information** relative to their respective trades.

Trade Enquiry Offices have been established at 73, Basinghall Street, E.C., by the Governments of the Dominion of Canada and Queensland. A list of Colonial Trade Enquiry Offices will be found on p. 680.

OPENINGS FOR BRITISH TRADE.

BRITISH INDIA.

Steel Tyres, Brass Strips and Tubes, Sheffield Tools, &c.

The Directors of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company are prepared to receive tenders for the supply of the following stores, namely:—Steel tyres, brass strips and tubes, Sheffield tools, &c. Specifications and forms of tender may be obtained at the Company's offices, 48, Copthall Avenue,

Openings for British Trade.

BRITISH INDIA—*continued.*

E.C., on payment of the fee for the specification, which payment will not be returned. Tenders must be delivered in sealed envelopes, addressed to the Secretary, marked "Tender for Steel Tyres," or as the case may be, not later than 11 a.m. on 7th January, 1909. The Directors do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

Cigarettes, Jewellery, Fertilisers, &c.

The "Indian Trade Journal" of 3rd December states that the Sub-Divisional Officer of the Hooghly district writes that cigarettes are more largely used even than tea by the people in that Sub-Division, and that jewellery made of "Canadian gold" and German silver is in much demand among the poorer classes. The free distribution of the leaflet reports of the Agricultural Department has paved the way for the introduction of scientific manures, which, if brought to the doors of the cultivators, would, it is stated, oust oil-cake from the market.

BRITISH INDIA—CEYLON.

Bridge Material: Ferry Boats.

The "Times of India" (Bombay) of 5th December states that the South Indian Railway propose to erect a viaduct over the Paumben Channel, and an opening bridge with a span large enough to cover all the navigable parts of the Channel, and also to establish a ferry service between Duneshkoti and Manaar—a distance of 22 miles of open sea. The Ceylon Government propose to undertake the extension of the Ceylon railway system as far as Manaar, and no difficulty is anticipated in carrying out the extension. A survey for this line has already been completed. Thus the viaduct across the Paumben Channel will enable the South Indian Railway to run direct to Duneshkoti, thence by the ferry service, and then to entrain at Manaar. The scheme awaits Government sanction.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH.

Ink and Twine.

The "Commonwealth of Australia Gazette" of 7th November announces that tenders will be received at the office of the Deputy Postmaster-General, Sydney, until 2.30 p.m. on 3rd March, for the supply of the undermentioned materials, viz.:—1. 1,000 lbs. of obliterating ink; 2. 35,000 lbs. of twine.

Tender forms and conditions may be obtained, and preliminary deposits paid, at the Commonwealth Offices in London, 72, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W. A copy of the conditions may be consulted by British makers on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

Openings for British Trade.

VICTORIA.

Storage Sheds, &c.

The Melbourne "Argus" of 12th November states that extensive alterations and improvements to wharves have been recommended by the Works Committee of the Melbourne Harbour Trust. On the north side of the river, between the No. 21 and No. 25 sheds, there is a space of about 900 feet unprovided with storage accommodation, and where the wharves are badly in need of repair. It is suggested that this portion of the wharf should be redecked, and where necessary defective piles replaced. It is also recommended that substantial sheds, of the latest design, be erected all along the wharf. The proposed improvements would, it is estimated, cost from 18,000*l.* to 20,000*l.*

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Underground Railway Project.

The Melbourne "Age" of 12th November states that the chief engineer for railway construction has submitted a scheme to the City Improvement Commission of Sydney for a railway which would make a circuit of the city underground, and then through shield tunnels to North Sydney. The cost of the first part of the scheme is estimated at 1,630,000*l.*, exclusive of the cost of any resumption or provision of power, and that of the extension to North Sydney at 780,000*l.*

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

Cut Cupboard Locks.

The "Cape of Good Hope Government Gazette" of 4th December announces that tenders will be received by the Chairman of the Tender Board, Control and Audit Office, Cape Town, up to noon on the 1st April, 1909, for the supply of 3-inch, 4 lever, cut cupboard locks, left and right hand, with two keys each—no key to open any two locks—for the period 1st July, 1909, to the 30th June, 1912. The locks, which must be equal to the standard sample in every respect, will be requisitioned for from time to time, and the quantity required will be 500, more or less.

Forms of tender (on which all tenders should be submitted), as well as any information which may be required, may be obtained on application either from the Controller of Stores, General Post Office, Cape Town, or from the Agent-General for the Cape of Good Hope, 100, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W., at whose respective offices standard sample locks may be inspected.

Tenders must be marked on the outside of the cover "Tender for Cut Cupboard Locks," and a sample lock forwarded to the Controller of Stores, G.P.O., Cape Town.

The lowest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.

Openings for British Trade.

EGYPT.

Cotton-seed Oil.

The London Agent for the Egyptian War Office (Lieut.-Col. J. H. Western, C.M.G.) notifies that the Department are calling for tenders for the supply and delivery at Tourah Mills, Cairo, of 60 tons of best refined cotton-seed oil. Tenders are to be sent to the Financial Secretary, War Office, Cairo, by noon on 26th January. Specifications and stamped paper are obtainable from Lieut.-Col. Western at Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W.

Bricks.

H.M. Consul-General at Alexandria (Mr. E. B. Gould, I.S.O.) reports that tenders are invited by the Conseil Sanitaire, Maritime et Quarantenaire, for the supply of bricks for paving, for mangers (troughs), and for gutters. Sealed tenders should be sent on stamped paper (obtainable from Lt.-Col. Western, as above), accompanied by a guarantee of £ E200, and should be addressed to M. le Président du Conseil Sanitaire, Maritime et Quarantenaire, Alexandria, by whom they will be received up to 9th January, 1909.

A copy of the specification (in French) may be seen by British makers on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

Fireworks, &c.

The Egyptian "Journal Officiel" of 19th December announces that tenders will be received at the office of the Director of Stores, Bulaq (Cairo), up to noon on the dates specified below, for the supply of fireworks, materials and appliances, &c., required for carrying out fireworks displays on the occasion of the following festivals, viz. :—

Festival.	Where held.	Date of reception of tenders.
Moulid-el-Nabi	Cairo	15th January, 1909.
Cutting of the Khalig	Cairo	1st March, 1909.
H.I.M. the Sultan's Accession Day ...	Alexandria ...	" "
Moulid-el-Ahmadi	Tanta	" "

Persons wishing to tender for these contracts can see the conditions of tender and obtain the necessary information at the office of the Director of Stores, Bulaq, or at the Accounts Office, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo.

Tenders must be submitted on stamped paper of 30 millièmes (obtainable from Lt.-Col. Western, as in preceding notice), and should be addressed to the Director of Stores, Ministry of the Interior, Bulaq (Cairo), enclosed in sealed envelopes, and marked "Tender for fireworks displays."

Openings for British Trade.

EGYPT—*continued.*

Tenderers must specify an authorised representative or agent in Egypt, giving his name and address.

As a guarantee of good faith, each tender must be accompanied by a declaration from a local bank in Egypt to the effect that it holds a sum at the disposal of the Ministry of the Interior equal to 10 per cent. of the total value of the offer. If the declaration does not accompany the tender it should be sent to the Director, Stores Department, Bulaq, under a separate cover, to arrive not later than the dates above fixed for the reception of the tenders.

Unless the above formalities are complied with, tenders will not be considered.

The Administration reserves to itself the right to accept the whole or part of, but does not bind itself to accept the lowest, or any tender.

Motor Cars.

In the "Handelsmuseum" (Vienna) of 24th December appears an article drawing attention to the rapid development in the use of motor cars in Egypt. The demand generally is for inexpensive cars with closed bodies and of low horse-power. New garages have been erected, and whilst most of the motor cars in use by the inhabitants are of French make, cars of every description have been brought in by tourists.

RUSSIA.

Coke.

The British Vice-Consul at Reval (Baron E. G. de Soucanton, M.V.O.) reports that, although nearly all the coal imported there is supplied from the United Kingdom, only a very small percentage of the coke imported is shipped from British ports, the bulk coming from Germany. The quantity imported from Germany during the year 1907 amounted to 239,645 pouds, and in 1906 to 116,389 pouds, while the imports from British ports amounted to only 27,253 pouds in 1907, and 7,993 pouds in 1906.

Herrings.

The importation of herrings from Great Britain declined in 1907 while that from Germany increased, the figures being 141,093 pouds from British ports, as compared with 190,870 pouds in 1906, and 43,444 pouds from German ports, against 16,209 in the preceding year.

Salt.

English salt is slowly regaining its old prominent position. While in 1905 only 7,225 pouds were imported from the United Kingdom, against 12,921 from Germany, the figure rose in 1906 to 15,089 pouds against 5,830, while in 1907 it reached 34,177 pouds against 9,049. Coarse salt is all imported from the Russian Black Sea ports,

Openings for British Trade.

RUSSIA—*continued.*

the quantity in 1907 amounting to 1,799,150 pouds. *This trade is of interest to British shipping, being the only Russian coasting trade that is open to foreign vessels.*

Artificial Manures.

The imports of artificial manures have shown an upward tendency for several years, the figures for the last two years being 413,558 pouds and 509,622 pouds, respectively. They consisted chiefly of nitrate of soda, cainite, superphosphate and Thomas-phosphate. Of the total quantity imported in 1907, 84,283 pouds came from the United Kingdom, 99,204 pouds from Belgium and 326,124 pouds from Germany. It was composed of 118,061 pouds of nitrate of soda, 177,391 pouds of cainite, 30,672 pouds of superphosphate and 183,487 pouds of Thomas-phosphate, the first three all from Germany and the last from the United Kingdom and Belgium.

Pumps, Machine Tools, Sewing Machines, Typewriters, Leather, Hats (Felt and Straw), &c.

The Austrian Consul at Kieff reports that there is a good demand in that district for pumps, which are supplied mainly from the United States of America, whilst machine tools, which also sell well, come principally from Germany. There is also a brisk demand for sewing machines, 80 per cent. of which come from the United States, also for typewriters, leather, and felt and straw hats. Motor cars, the importation of which is constantly increasing, come principally from France.

Musical Instruments.

The "Handelsmuseum" (Vienna) of 24th December, quoting from a report of the Austrian Consulate in Tiflis, states that there is an excellent business to be done in musical instruments* in that district. The demand is principally for guitars, mandolines, violins and 'cellos, almost all of which come from Saxony and Bohemia. The report suggests that a very good business might be worked up by the establishment in Tiflis of an agency which should have at its disposal an attractive and comprehensive stock of instruments. The report adds that, having regard to the climate, great care should be taken that the instruments are made out of absolutely dry material.

Motor Cars.

The same "Handelsmuseum" also announces, on the authority of the Austrian-Consul General in Moscow, that there is a significant development in the use of motor cars in Russia, the imports in 1907 having doubled, as compared with those for 1906. The demand is not only for pleasure cars, but also for heavy industrial vehicles and for motor omnibuses. Most of the cars in use are of French and German make.

* See also "Board of Trade Journal" of 24th December, p. 589.

Openings for British Trade.

SWEDEN.

Commercial Enquiries.

The December "Journal" of the Swedish Chamber of Commerce in London, 134, Fenchurch Street, E.C., publishes the following commercial enquiries:—

Cream beaters and coolers.—Name of a first-class British maker wanted by a Swedish merchant. (Reference No. A/159/08.).

Fresh fruits.—Name of a first-class Liverpool exporter wanted by a Swedish importer. Sole agency for Sweden required. (Reference No. A/163/08.).

Note.—Communications in connection with these enquiries should be addressed to the Swedish Chamber of Commerce, 134, Fenchurch Street, E.C.

NETHERLANDS.

Accessories for Tubes, Sluice-valves and Hydrants.

H.M. Consul at Rotterdam (Mr. H. Turing) has forwarded copies of the conditions and drawings relating to the supply and delivery of 58,127 kilogs. of accessories for common tubes, 840 kilogs. of accessories for sluice-valves and 26,100 kilogs. of accessories for hydrants, for which tenders will be received by the Rotterdam Municipality up to the 18th January, 1909. The conditions and drawings may be consulted by British makers on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

Ready-made Clothing, Hosiery, Rubber Goods, &c.

The French Consul at Amsterdam has reported that there is a considerable quantity of ready-made clothing for both sexes imported into Holland, principally from Germany, and that there is a good market for cheap articles of this nature. Furthermore, there are good openings for chemical products, hosiery, mineral waters, india-rubber articles, &c.

NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES.

Railway Plant.

The "Straits Budget" of 26th November states that in January next, a big railway scheme will be taken in hand in Java, viz., a direct line from Batavia to Sourabaya, the chief port of the island.

The Dutch Minister for the Colonies has approved the plans, the carrying out of which will cost 20,000,000 gulden (about 1,667,000*l.*). A line, 907 kilometres (566 miles) long, already connects the two cities, but the distance, owing to the mountainous nature of the country, is too great to admit of the journey being accomplished in one day. Surveys have disclosed a practical route through lower country, which will shorten the distance to 810

kilometres, and allow of a speed fast enough to admit of the journey from Batavia to Sourabaya being accomplished in sixteen hours. The proposed line has also the advantage of opening out productive tracts of country. The actual length of new line required is 267 kilometres, the time for construction being set at four years.

TUNIS.

Railway Construction.

According to the "Moniteur Officiel du Commerce" (Paris) of 24th December, it has recently been decided to accept a plan for duplicating the railway line which links up Tunis with Kalaaes-Senan. The new line will be laid 25 or 30 kilometres away from the old, so that new districts will thus be served.

Railway and Bridge Construction.

The "Dépêche Coloniale" (Paris) of 27th December announces that the Directorate General of Public Works in Tunis will shortly proceed to adjudication in respect of the 14th section of the Béja-Nebeur line, which will include a 300 metre tunnel, a 90 metre metal bridge in three bays, a stone bridge, and a viaduct 60 metres long in two spans of 30 metres each.

Railway Plant. See notice on p. 663.

SPAIN.

Railway Material.

The "Gaceta de Madrid" of 17th December contains a notice to the effect that the Málaga Suburban Railways Company have applied to the Dirección General de Obras Públicas, Madrid, for a concession to construct a railway from Torre del Mar through Vélez Málaga to Periana, on terms which may be ascertained at the "Dirección General." Other offers are invited for submission within 60 days from the date of the notice, viz., 15th December. Particulars can be seen at the "Dirección General de Obras Publicas, Madrid.

Telephone Material.

The "Gaceta" of 16th December contains a decree, dated 25th November, granting to the provincial authorities of Guipúzcoa a concession for the establishment and working during 35 years of an inter-urban telephone system to link up the outlying districts of the above-mentioned province. For this concession the Provincial Deputation of Guipúzcoa will contribute to the State 10 per cent. of the gross receipts.

The "Gacetas" may be seen by British firms interested on application at the "Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

Openings for British Trade.

SPAIN—*continued.*

Furs.

The "Moniteur Officiel du Commerce" (Paris) of 24th December contains an announcement to the effect that there is a considerable opening in Spain for glossy rabbit skins for use in the fur trade.

ITALY.

Ironmongery and Hardware.

The "Gazzetta Ufficiale" of 18th December contains a notice to the effect that tenders will be opened at 11 a.m. on the 11th January simultaneously at the General Directorates of the Royal Arsenals at Spezia, Venice and Taranto, for the supply of hardware and ironmongery material in the following four lots, with the indicated upset prices:—1st lot for 16,000 lire (640*l.*); 2nd lot for 12,000 lire (480*l.*); 3rd lot for 10,000 lire (400*l.*); 4th lot for 14,000 lire (560*l.*). The competition will turn on the percentage reduction offered in respect of each lot. To qualify any tender a deposit of 10 per cent. of the upset price will be required in respect of each lot. The above competition is on the single auction system.* Particulars and conditions for tendering may be seen at the Ministry of Marine in Rome, and at the Arsenals at Spezia, Naples, Venice and Taranto. Local representation is necessary.

Electric Tramway Plant.

The "Bollettino Finanze, Ferrovie, Industrie" (Rome) of 17th December announces that the Italian Ministry of Public Works has granted to the Briantee Electric Tramways Company Ltd., a concession for the construction and working of a line of tramway from Monza to Meda (Milan).

Tramway Concession.

According to the "Bulletin Mensuel de la Chambre de Commerce Française de Milan" for December, the Italian Minister of Public Works has approved the form of the concession for a new line of tramway from Lodi to Piacenza, as definitely drawn up by the joint representatives of the Provinces of Milan and Piacenza, and the Municipalities of Codogno, Castelpusterlengo and Piacenza.

Steel Plates.

The "Moniteur Officiel du Commerce" (Paris) of 24th December announces that arrangements are being made to issue invitations for tenders for the supply of 5,000 tons of steel plates for the cruiser B of the Italian Navy.

* See notice on p. 536 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 22nd December, 1904.

Openings for British Trade.

ITALY—*continued.*

Fishing Appliances.

The same "Moniteur" states that the fishing community of Ravenna have joined in the formation of a Limited Co-operative Fishing Company. The object of this company is to stimulate activity in the fishing industry of Ravenna by purchasing modern appliances for fishermen, by facilitating the marketing of the produce, and by erecting a fish-preserving establishment, &c.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Electrical Installation.

The "Oesterreicher Zentral-Anzeiger für das öffentliche Lieferungswesen" (Vienna) of 20th December announces that the municipal authorities of Szarvas (Hungary) have voted a sum of 400,000 kronen (about 16,700*l*,) for an electrical installation.

Carpet Weaving Looms, &c.

The "Oesterreicher Zentral-Anzeiger" also reports that the Grossbecskerek Teppichfabrik, Nagybechskerek, Hungary, has decided to lay out 400,000 kronen (about 16,700*l*.) in connection with the enlargment of the works, which will involve the purchase of 30 looms. This factory, it is stated, is the largest carpet factory in Hungary.

Saw-mill Machinery, &c.

The "Curier Financiar" (Bucharest) of 20th December announces that a Hungarian-Roumanian timber working company has recently been formed in Budapest with a capital of 1,200,000 kronen (about 50,000*l*.). The object of this company is to purchase and work forests situated both in Hungary and in Roumania, to erect works and saw mills, and generally to conduct the timber industry on a large scale. The company has been authorised to establish a branch in Roumania.

TURKEY.

Admission of Various Articles formerly excluded.

H.M. Ambassador at Constantinople has forwarded the following list of objects the importation of which under the old régime was either entirely prohibited or subjected to special restrictions, but which are now freely admitted:—

1. Books, magazines, newspapers, and all printed matter.
2. Printing machinery, type, and all other accessories.
3. Typewriters of all kinds, copying and hectographing appliances.
4. All sorts of electrical appliances, including telephones.
5. A large number of drugs and chemical substances which at different times have been put on the index, such as caco-dilate of

soda, chlorate and cyanide of potassium, nitro-glycerine and artificial manures.

6. Sporting guns, revolvers, pistols, rook and saloon rifles, flauberts, air guns—in fact, all species of fire-arms not falling under the heading of "eshia-i-harbie-i-resmie," which includes "army pattern" rifles, such as Mausers, Mannlichers, Gras, &c.

7. Sporting and revolver cartridges, cartridge cases and caps, and cartridge-making appliances.

8. Fireworks, rockets, crackers, &c.

9. Iron safes.

BRAZIL.

Fans.

The "Handelsmuseum" (Vienna) of 24th December, quoting from a report of the Austrian Consul-General in Rio de Janeiro, states that fans constitute a very important item of importation into Brazil, and that a good business can be worked up, provided an article light in substance and novel in design is supplied. It is important to change the design as often as possible. Cheap paper fans are imported principally from Japan, whilst those of a better quality come from France, Austria, Germany and Spain.

URUGUAY.

Coal, Oil, Cotton Waste, &c.

The "Diario Oficial" of 29th October contains a decree authorising the Electric Lighting Company of Paysandú to import free of duty, during the fiscal year 1908-09, the following articles:—800 tons of coal, 4 tons of mineral lubricating oil, 14 cwts. of cotton waste and a spare induction coil for a dynamo.

Railway Construction.

The "Diario Oficial" of 1st November publishes a provisional contract made between the Government of Uruguay and the Uruguay Central Railway and the Uruguay North-Eastern Railway embodying modifications of the contract entered into between the Government and the above-mentioned Companies on the 20th April, 1906 (see "Board of Trade Journal" of 24th May, 1906, p. 347). This fresh contract stipulates that the extension of the North-Eastern Railway from Nico Perez will be divided in the following three distinct sections:—(*a*) from Nico Perez to Melo; (*b*) from Melo to a point near Centurion or some other on the borders of Brazil; (*c*) from Nico Perez (or an adjoining point) to Treinta y Tres. Of the foregoing, section (*c*) to Treinta y Tres will be commenced within three months after the Government has approved the plans, which must be submitted within six months after ratification of the contract.

The "Diario," containing further particulars of the contract, may be seen by British contractors at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

Openings for British Trade.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

Harbour Works.

The "Boletin Oficial" of 25th November contains a decree, dated 23rd November, authorising the Port of Rosario Company, Limited, to extend the railway tracks and to carry out various alterations of roads and other harbour extensions.

EXHIBITIONS.

RUSSIA.

International Exhibition of Watches, Jewellery and Mechanical-Optical Instruments.

H.M. Consul at St. Petersburg (Mr. A. W. Woodhouse) reports that an International Exhibition of watches, jewellery and mechanical-optical instruments and accessories is to be held in St. Petersburg from the 28th January/10th February to 28th March/10th April, 1909.

Particulars may be obtained by intending exhibitors on application to Le Commissaire, Exposition internationale d'horlogerie, &c., Perspective de Liteiny 10, St. Petersburg.

A copy of the general regulations (in French) and form of application for space may be consulted by British firms on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

International Town and Health Resorts Exhibition.

H.M. Consul also reports that an International Exhibition of improvements to towns and health resorts, organised by the Society of Civil Engineers, is to be held at St. Petersburg from April to September, 1909.

FRANCE.

International Exhibition at Nancy.

H.M. Consul-General at Paris (Mr. A. P. Inglis, M.V.O., I.S.O.) has forwarded a copy of the programme of an international exhibition, under the patronage of the French Government, to be held at Nancy from May to October, 1909. The exhibition will comprise sections devoted to mining, metallurgy, transport, decorative arts, electricity, textile and chemical industries, agriculture, horticulture, &c. Applications for space will be received by the Director-General of the Exhibition up to the 1st February next.

A copy of the programme and a plan of the exhibition may be seen by British firms interested, on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

BRITISH TRADE ABROAD.

Switzerland.—The following observations on commercial travellers and the prospects of increasing British trade in Switzerland have been received from the British Vice-Consul at Zurich (Mr. J. C. Milligan):—

"*Commercial travellers visiting Switzerland.*—In 1907 the number of commercial travellers who applied for the requisite Swiss licence was 31,806, or 558 more than in 1906. Swiss firms were represented by 25,307 travellers and foreign houses by 6,769. Of the total number, 10,447 represented firms dealing in food products of all kinds, 6,812 represented textile industries, and 3,686 the machinery and metal branches. The Federal revenue derived from the issue of travellers' licences in 1907 amounted to 16,800*l.*

"The following comparisons of trade done by the seven countries from which Switzerland mainly purchased her requirements in 1907, and the number of travellers representing each country, may be of interest to British manufacturers:—

"The value of the total imports in 1907 was 67,497,000*l.*, the value of the imports of manufactures being 22,334,700*l.*

Total Imports from—	Value.	Imports of Manufactures.	Percentage of Total Imports of Manufactures.	Number of Travellers.
	£	£		
Germany	22,053,000	11,894,700	53·2	4,551
France	11,910,700	3,290,500	14·7	1,411
Italy	9,211,500	678,000	3	390
United Kingdom	4,716,800	3,258,300	14 6	76
Austria-Hungary	4,119,800	1,409,000	6	246
United States	2,805,800	645,900	2·9	1
Belgium	1,357,600	755,700	3·3	66

"The principal towns visited by commercial travellers last year were Basle, Zurich, Geneva, St. Gall, Berne, Lausanne, Lucerne, Winterthur, La Chaux de fonds and Bienne.

"It may be of interest to call attention to the agreement* concluded in 1907 between His Majesty's Government and the Government of Switzerland for the purpose of facilitating the clearance through the Customs-house of samples of dutiable goods carried by commercial travellers which are not intended for sale.

"The agreement is as follows:—

"'The marks, stamps, or seals affixed by the Customs authorities of one country to commercial samples at the time of exportation, and the list of such samples drawn up in proper form and certified by the competent authority, such list containing an exact description of the samples, shall form sufficient evidence, so far as the respective Customs authorities are concerned, of their nature, and

* See "Board of Trade Journal" of 7th March, 1907, p. 477.

British Trade Abroad.

shall entitle them to exemption from all Customs examination, except in so far as may be necessary to establish that the samples produced are identical with those enumerated in the list. The Customs authorities of either country are, however, at liberty to affix a supplementary mark to such samples, should this precaution, in particular cases be considered necessary.'

"*Articles in which there is more scope for British trade.*—Although the general result of the exports of manufactures of the United Kingdom to Switzerland in 1907 may be regarded as satisfactory, not only from the fact that the increased trade amounted to more than 700,000*l.*, but also that the value of British manufactures supplied to that country (3,258,000*l.*) is the highest amount hitherto recorded, it should be pointed out that the imports of cotton manufactures alone account for 68 per cent. of this sum. The share of the United Kingdom in the total imports of manufactures into Switzerland in 1907 was 14·6 per cent., as compared with 13 per cent. in 1906. Both of these years show an improvement on the average for the preceding five years 1901-5, when the percentage was only 10·9. This increased percentage is, however, entirely due to the large imports of cotton goods—the United Kingdom being Switzerland's principal source of supply under this category—and if these imports be deducted, the result of our exports in all other branches of industry is reduced to 5 per cent. of the total Swiss purchases of other finished goods.

"I have in previous reports drawn attention to the small share which the United Kingdom has in supplying Swiss requirements in various classes of goods, and particularly in woollen carpets, woollen, linen and cotton ready-made goods, cutlery, porcelain and china, finished leather goods, leather gloves, and gold and silver ware. Swiss purchases of these articles are considerable, and there is no reason why the United Kingdom should not enjoy a larger share. As I have frequently pointed out, the desire has been expressed from time to time, both in the Swiss press and by Swiss merchants, to see a larger share of their orders placed with British merchants, in return for the large trade they do with the United Kingdom."

WOOLLEN INDUSTRY OF BRITISH INDIA.

A memorandum has been received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence at Calcutta dealing with the woollen industry of India in 1907. Of the six woollen mills of India, five represent a paid-up capital of Rs. 42,57,440 (283,829*l.*) and debentures of Rs. 4,00,000 (26,667*l.*), while the capital of the sixth, a small private mill at Bombay, is not stated. Two of the mills, those at Cawnpore in the United Provinces and at Dhariwal in the Punjab, have between them a paid-up capital of 30 lakhs (200,000*l.*) or 70 per cent. of the whole, and produce 86 per cent. of the total outturn of the Indian mills. They weave cloth for the use of the army and police, and articles of superior quality generally, using for the high-class goods Australian wool either pure or mixed with Indian wool.

There has been no large increase in the amount of capital employed since 1898, though the number of persons employed and the number of looms and spindles have risen. The year 1905 represents the maximum of the quantity and value of the goods produced. In 1906, owing to the high price of wool, there was a considerable shrinkage in production, followed by a slight recovery in 1907.

The quantity of woollen goods imported into India is very much greater than the production of the Indian mills. Piece-goods and shawls from the United Kingdom and Germany make up the bulk of the imports. The value of the woollen goods imported in 1907 was Rs. 2,62,24,800, and of the production of Indian mills Rs. 34,12,879, as compared with Rs. 2,00,08,545 and Rs. 34,81,808, respectively, in 1906.

There are in various places factories for the weaving of carpets and rugs, and of *pattu* and *páshmina*, but though these industries are in the aggregate extensive, they are individually small, the weaving being done on hand-looms.

The exports of woollen goods from India consist almost entirely of carpets and rugs, of which about three-fourths go to the United Kingdom and the greater part of the remainder to the United States. The values of Indian carpets and rugs exported during the years 1905, 1906, and 1907 were Rs. 17,87,340, Rs. 20,62,845 and Rs. 23,76,840, respectively.

The following statement gives particulars of the woollen industry in India for the years 1905, 1906 and 1907 :—

—		1905.	1906.	1907.
Mills at work	No.	6	6	6
Nominal capital employed* ...	Rs.	46,25,000	46,25,000	46,25,000
Persons employed	No.	3,491	3,402	3,487
Looms	"	719	759	820
Spindles	"	27,387	27,105	28,868
Production	Lbs.	4,126,937	2,827,290	2,944,705
	Rs.	44,28,887	34,81,808	34,12,879

* Capital of five of the mills.

TRADE OF FRANCE WITH AFRICA IN 1904-1907.

The following particulars relating to the trade of France with Africa in the years 1904-1907 are in continuation of the article which appeared in the "Board of Trade Journal" of 2nd January, 1908:—

The value of the **total** trade (special) of France with Africa, as shown in the French Trade Volume ("Tableau Général du Commerce et de la Navigation"), was 46,961,000*l.* in 1907 (the latest year for which the details are available), as compared with 41,125,000*l.* in 1906, the imports into France from Africa for home consumption being valued at 22,082,000*l.*, as against 18,920,000*l.* in 1906, and the exports from France to Africa of French produce and manufactures amounting in value to 24,879,000*l.* in 1907, as compared with 22,205,000*l.* in the previous year.

The following tables show (A) the value of the imports into France, and (B) the value of the exports from France, from and to Africa, for each of the four years 1904-1907, distinguishing the trade with the French and British possessions in Africa, and with Egypt, Morocco and Tripoli:—

A.—Imports into France from Africa.

(Exclusive of Bullion and Specie.)

From—	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
French Possessions and Protectorates in Africa*—	£	£	£	£
Algeria	9,352,000	8,653,000	9,748,000	11,624,000
Tunis	2,112,000	1,625,000	2,237,000	2,817,000
French Somali Coast	¶	¶	27,000	25,000
Senegal	1,237,000	1,043,000	1,274,000	1,855,000
Other parts of French West Africa†	737,000	741,000	749,000	974,000
Total, French Africa* ...	13,438,000	12,062,000	14,035,000	17,295,000
British Possessions & Protectorates—				
In the West (including the Cape of Good Hope)	494,000	390,000	556,000	622,000
In the East‡	173,000	228,000	290,000	269,000
Total, British Africa‡ ...	667,000	618,000	846,000	891,000
Egypt	2,126,000	2,076,000	2,678,000	2,809,000
Morocco	297,000	462,000	820,000	433,000
Tripoli	75,000	88,000	115,000	103,000
All other parts of Africa§	195,000	258,000	426,000	551,000
Total, Africa*... ... £	16,798,000	15,564,000	18,920,000	22,082,000

* Excluding Madagascar and, prior to 1906, French Somaliland.

† French Congo, French Soudan, French Guinea, Ivory Coast, and Gulf of Benin (Dahomey).

‡ Including Mauritius.

§ Including the Portuguese, German, Italian, and Spanish possessions in Africa, Liberia, and the Independent State of the Congo.

¶ Prior to 1906 the figures for French Somali Coast were included with those for French Possessions in India.

Trade of France with Africa in 1904-1907.

B.—Exports from France to Africa.
(*Exclusive of Specie.*)

To—	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
French Possessions and Protectorates in Africa*—	£	£	£	£
Algeria	12,596,000	13,072,000	14,217,000	15,708,000
Tunis	2,300,000	2,549,000	2,776,000	3,361,000
French Somali Coast	¶	¶	8,000	90,000
Senegal	1,398,000	885,000	934,000	1,174,000
Other parts of French West Africa†	503,000	764,000	646,000	828,000
Total, French Africa*.. ...	16,797,000	17,270,000	18,581,000	21,161,000
British Possessions & Protectorates—				
In the West (including Cape of Good Hope)	40,000	42,000	71,000	61,000
In the East‡	198,000	193,000	297,000	243,000
Total, British Africa‡... ...	238,000	235,000	368,000	304,000
Egypt	1,474,000	1,784,000	2,487,000	2,603,000
Morocco	537,000	576,000	607,000	627,000
Tripoli	52,000	51,000	67,000	89,000
All other parts of Africa§	71,000	60,000	95,000	95,000
Total, Africa*	19,169,000	19,976,000	22,205,000	24,879,000

* Excluding Madagascar and, prior to 1906, French Somaliland.
† French Congo, French Soudan, French Guinea, Ivory Coast, and Gulf of Benin (Dahomey).
‡ Including Mauritius.
§ Including the Portuguese, German, Italian, and Spanish possessions in Africa, Liberia, and the Independent State of the Congo.
¶ Prior to 1906 the figures for French Somali Coast were included with those for French Possessions in India.

Algeria.—The principal articles imported into France from Algeria are wines, cereals, animals, wool, fruit, vegetables, hides and skins, phosphates, cork, ores, &c.

The values of the principal **exports** from France to Algeria during the last two years are shown in the following table :—

C.—Exports from France to Algeria.

	1906.	1907.
	£	£
Cotton piece goods	1,641,000	2,492,000
Furniture and manufactures of wood	819,000	806,000
Hides and skins, worked	666,000	737,000
Apparel	535,000	614,000
Tools and metal manufactures	546,000	555,000
Paper, &c.	494,000	473,000
Sugar, raw and refined	383,000	408,000
Machinery	330,000	395,000

Trade of France with Africa in 1904-1907.

Tunis.—The products of Tunis imported into France consist of cereals, olive oil, phosphates, sponges, animals, ores, raw hides and skins, wool, wine, &c.

The principal exports from France to Tunis were as follows:—

D.—Exports from France to Tunis.

	1906.	1907.
	£	£
Tools and metal manufactures	224,000	271,000
Machinery	150,000	231,000
Cereals	225,000	195,000
Cotton piece goods	124,000	181,000
Iron and steel	107,000	151,000
Sugar, raw and refined	90,000	109,000
Hides and skins, worked	100,000	103,000

French West Africa.—The imports into France from the various French possessions on the West Coast of Africa, the French Soudan and French Congo consist of ground nuts, palm oil, rubber, oil seeds and fruits, cabinet wood, cocoa, and other tropical produce; and the exports thereto from France, of rice, piece-goods, tools and metal manufactures, apparel, dressed skins and furs, machinery, soap and perfumery, wines, &c.

British Africa.—The trade with the British possessions in Africa is given under one heading in the French trade volume (with the exception of the totals for West Africa and East Africa, respectively, as shown in tables A and B), an arrangement which renders it impracticable to differentiate the value of the trade of France with Cape Colony and Natal from that of her trade with other British Colonies and Protectorates in Africa. The imports into France, however, from British South Africa must be comparatively unimportant and chiefly confined to wool and skins, as the total value of imports into France from *all* British African Possessions combined, in 1907, amounted to only 891,000*l.* (as compared with 846,000*l.* in 1906), and of this 608,000*l.* represents the value of the imports of oil seeds and fruits and 47,000*l.* the value of the imports of palm oil, all of which are tropical produce. The value of raw wool imported into France from British Africa in 1907 was 91,000*l.* (in 1906, 130,000*l.*), and of raw hides and skins 52,000*l.* (in 1906, 52,000*l.*).

The values of the principal exports from France to British Africa in 1907 were as follow:—

Trade of France with Africa in 1904-1907.

E.—Exports from France to British Africa.

	1906.	1907.
	£	£
Wine	35,000	39,000
Cotton piece-goods	23,000	23,000
Woollen piece-goods	22,000	23,000
Rice	15,000	18,000
Apparel	9,000	15,000
Skins and furs, dressed	11,000	9,000

Egypt.—The imports into France from Egypt in 1907 were valued at 2,809,000*l.*, as compared with 2,678,000*l.* in 1906, and the exports thereto from France amounted in value to 2,603,000*l.* in 1907, compared with 2,487,000*l.* in 1906.

The following table may be interesting as showing the comparative growth of French and British trade (special) with Egypt in the years 1905–1907 :—

Years.	Trade of France with Egypt.			Trade of United Kingdom with Egypt.		
	Imports into France from Egypt.	Exports from France to Egypt.	Total Trade France-Egypt.	Imports into U. K. from Egypt.	Exports from U. K. to Egypt.	Total Trade U. K.—Egypt.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1905...	2,076,000	1,784,000	3,860,000	12,489,000	7,849,000	20,338,000
1906...	2,678,000	2,487,000	5,165,000	14,383,000	8,936,000	23,319,000
1907...	2,809,000	2,603,000	5,412,000	18,206,000	10,022,000	28,228,000

Of the 2,809,000*l.* worth of goods imported from Egypt into France in 1907, 2,141,000*l.* represents the value of raw cotton, 281,000*l.* cotton seed, 100,000*l.* exotic gums, and 40,000*l.* hides and skins.

The exports from France to Egypt in 1907 were principally the following :—

F.—Exports from France to Egypt.

	1906.	1907.
Piece-goods—	£	£
Silk	342,000	336,000
Cotton	131,000	188,000
Wool	180,000	197,000
Apparel	172,000	210,000
Tools and metal manufactures	166,000	162,000
Fancy goods, toys, brushware, &c.	159,000	156,000
Motor cars	116,000	133,000
Skins and furs, dressed	115,000	111,000
Machinery	92,000	83,000
Paper and paper manufactures	76,000	83,000
Building materials (tiles, lime, cement, &c.)	52,000	77,000
Furniture and wood manufactures	39,000	48,000
Earthenware and glassware	42,000	40,000

Trade of France with Africa in 1904–1907.

Morocco and Tripoli.—The total imports into France from these two countries were valued at 536,000*l.* in 1907, of which 260,000*l.* was for wool and 134,000*l.* for hides and skins. The rest of the imported goods consisted of hair, feathers, sponges, and agricultural produce. Of the exports from France to the same two countries, valued altogether in 1907 at 716,000*l.*, sugar of all kinds was valued at 363,000*l.*, silk and floss silk 82,000*l.*, silk manufactures 16,000*l.*, and medicinal articles, 16,000*l.*

Other Parts of Africa.—The value of the total trade of France with parts of Africa not previously mentioned, including the Independent State of the Congo, and all the Portuguese and German African possessions, amounted, imports and exports combined, to only 646,000*l.* in 1907 as compared with 521,000*l.* in 1906.

"**Cotton Piece-goods**" is an important item in the French export trade to Africa. The following table shows the value of such goods exported from France to Africa in 1904–1907:—

G.—Exports of Cotton Piece-goods from France to Africa.

To—	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
	£	£	£	£
Algeria	1,546,000	1,620,000	1,641,000	2,492,000
Tunis	100,000	104,000	124,000	181,000
Senegal	96,000	92,000	85,000	113,000
Other parts of French West Africa*	18,000	24,000	42,000	64,000
Total, French Africa* ...	1,760,000	1,840,000	1,892,000	2,850,000
British Africa*	23,000	26,000	23,000	23,000
Egypt	80,000	91,000	131,000	188,000
Morocco	13,000	7,000	10,000	17,000
Tripoli...	2,000	2,000†	9,000†	6,000†
All other parts of Africa*	1,000	2,000	14,000	6,000
Total Africa* ... ... £	1,879,000	1,968,000	2,079,000	3,090,000

* See notes on p. 648. † Piece-goods of all kinds.

NOTE.—The export figures given in the foregoing article are in all cases "special" (domestic) exports as shown in the French Trade Volume. In addition to these, however, considerable quantities of merchandise worked up from goods imported under the "admissions temporaires" régime, were exported from France to Africa. The total value of these exports in 1907 was 1,562,000*l.*, 1,121,000*l.* worth going to Egypt (922,000*l.* representing wheat flour), 141,000*l.* to Morocco, 171,000*l.* to Tunis, and 129,000*l.* to other countries.

COTTON CULTIVATION IN BRAZIL.

The following memorandum on cotton cultivation in Brazil has been received from H.M. Legation at Rio de Janeiro:—

The cultivation of cotton in Brazil dates back to the earliest days of the country's development, but, owing to a succession of discouraging circumstances, mainly ruinous freights and disadvantageous commercial treaties, it made no advance until the date of the American civil war. At that time there was a great falling off in the production of the Southern States and a corresponding boom in the Brazilian product. There has, however, been no cotton shipped to the United States from Brazil since the year 1903. Fifty years ago there were only nine cotton factories altogether in Brazil, but from that day to this they have been steadily increasing, and factories of every description are now to be found scattered throughout the country, thread, yarn, textiles, &c., all being manufactured.

Although practically every State produces cotton to a greater or less extent, the plant is found chiefly in the north-east of Brazil, viz.: the States of Pernambuco, Parahyba, Rio Grande do Norte, Maranhâo, Alagoas, Ceará and Bahia. The seasons for planting and gathering vary according to the place, as also does the time which the cotton requires to come to maturity, while the qualities of fibre differ very largely, the finest qualities being obtained as a rule from the less-productive plants. Various species are said to abound but they are much mixed up into hybrid forms. There are, however, one or two good sorts, such as "Sea Island" and "Upland," originally introduced from the United States, and "Jumel" from Egypt. Yet one of the reasons for the comparatively backward state of cultivation is the lack of care taken in the selection of seed. The cotton plants of Brazil may be roughly divided into the "arborescent" and "herbaceous," the former being principally grown in the north and the latter in the south. The arborescent live for about eight years and produce within anything from nine to twelve months, according to whether grown in the north or the south, the growth of cotton being quicker in the north. The herbaceous cottons are either annuals or biennials and produce in as short a time as from three to nine months, again in accordance with the situation. The plants everywhere are persecuted by an infinity of insects and are apt to suffer also from frost in the highlands. The cotton of the north, and particularly that of the State of Maranhâo, is generally considered to be of excellent quality. The State of Pernambuco is the largest producer, but the State of Sâo Paulo is foremost in the matter of machinery and experimental cultivation. On the whole, cotton grows without much difficulty all over Brazil, and it is surprising that there should be so little encouragement given to its proper cultivation.

Though there are now a great number of weaving and spinning mills, native-made cotton yarns and goods can hardly be considered as of the finest quality. Owing to the heavy protective duties, however, they find a market in different parts of the country, and are all disposed of at comparatively high prices.

Cotton Cultivation in Brazil.

Raw cotton is shipped to a very great extent from the port of Pernambuco and goes mainly to Liverpool. A great deal also is sent to Portugal, though less than formerly. Shipments from Brazil to France and Russia are increasing to some extent, as will be seen from the following table :—

Destinations of Exports of Raw Cotton from Brazil.

—	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
	Tons.	Tons	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
United Kingdom ...	18,204	8,994	17,854	23,265	20,980
Portugal	6,542	3,654	3,824	3,947	4,072
France	296	49	1,043	2,123	1,296
Russia	131	94	1,060	1,116	590
Germany...	1,696	472	256	246	522

The shipments to Germany in 1903 were exceptional and evidently due to some unusual cause. From a glance at the statistics of previous years, the exports to Germany from Brazil on the whole have been fairly regular, with a tendency to increase.

The total quantities of raw cotton and cotton seed exported from Brazil in 1907 were 28,000 tons and 31,000 tons, respectively, as compared with 32,000 tons and 37,000 tons in 1906.

The imports of cotton manufactured goods are showing signs of diminution owing to the increased number of factories in the country. Most of these imports have come from the United Kingdom, Italy and Germany. Those from Italy have fallen off considerably in the last few years, and those from the United Kingdom a little, while those from Germany have shown little change.

PRODUCTION OF HERVA MATÉ IN BRAZIL.

H.M. Legation in Brazil has forwarded the following memorandum on the production of herva maté in Brazil. It appears that this article took the third place in Brazilian exports in 1906, and fifth place in 1907, the value of the export each year being nearly 2,000,000*l.* :—

" 'Ilex Paraguayensis' or Paraguayan tea, known also as 'Missionaries' tea' and 'Jesuits' tea,' is to be found wild in immense quantities in the Brazilian States of Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catharina, Paraná, Matto Grosso, São Paulo, Goyaz and Minas Geraes ; but more particularly in Paraná. It was first discovered by the early missionaries, who found it in use among the natives of Paraguay, to which country it is also indigenous. It is met with generally in the form of a tree ranging from 9 to 18 feet in height, there being three varieties of the species known, viz., the 'latifolia' with broad leaves, the 'longifolia' with long leaves, and the 'angustifolia' with small leaves, the last of these being the most

appreciated. It is gathered between the months of April and September, the leaves being considered more mature for the purpose in June and August, and the trees are allowed from four to five years to recover from the effects of a very rough harvest. The branches are broken off and the leaves are withered over a smokeless bonfire, to prevent them from turning black, and they are further submitted to a primitive process of 'curing' later.

"The original method of consuming maté, and the manner still in vogue in South American countries, is to pour hot water on the top of the leaves and sip through a tube, the same leaves serving for innumerable brews if they are not allowed to cool. It is found, however, to give a very good result when prepared like other teas, and, in comparison with the latter, is said to be much more digestible and less harmful to the nerves. It is further stated by writers on the subject to be a stimulant and tonic, its qualities in these respects having been very marked indeed during the Paraguayan war, at which time soldiers were found to be able to endure the greatest hardships and go for days without food if provided with maté.

"The French Consular Agent in Curityba, some time back, tried to bring herva maté before the notice of his Government for the use of the French colonial army, he being persuaded that it would prove a preventative against abuse of alcohol and tropical diseases. To support his arguments he stated that a German military-medical council had recommended its substitution for ordinary tea generally among the German troops. This may account for the fact that maté is beginning to find its way now into Germany, and even more so into Italy, though the imports into both these countries at present are very insignificant. It is also becoming known in France and Portugal, whilst the amount sent to England has so far scarcely attained the proportions of a sample.

"The natural supply of the Southern Brazilian forests is reputed to be inexhaustible, and presumably could at any time be largely increased by planting and cultivation if there were greater demands for it. In the meantime the exports are considerable to Argentina, Uruguay and Chile, with occasional shipments to Paraguay also, though none whatever is exported to any of the other countries in South America.

"Maté of course is considerably cheaper in this part of the world than are eastern teas, and those by whom the taste for it has already been acquired are loud in declaring it to be wholesome and refreshing and to be possessed of innumerable medicinal virtues. The maté which is shipped from Rio de Janeiro and the other important ports of Brazil is usually 'in transit,' the natural ports for direct shipments being the little-known places, such as Paranaguá, Antonina, São Francisco, Porto Murtinho and Porto Alegre. The increase in the export from Porto Alegre in the last few years has been very remarkable. In the year 1902 only 11 tons were shipped, while in 1906 the shipments had increased to 11,000 tons, an

Production of Herva Maté in Brazil.

advance which, while enormous, has at the same time been gradual and has since been maintained.

The following statistics show roughly the increase in the foreign exports of maté from Brazil:—

—	To Argentina.	To Uruguay.	To Chile.	Total Exports.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1902	31,000	10,000	1,000	42,000
1903	29,000	5,000	3,000	37,000
1904	32,000	10,000	2,000	44,000
1905	30,000	10,000	1,000	41,000
1906	43,000	18,000	2,000	63,000

IMPORT DUTIES IN BRITISH COLONIES AND POSSESSIONS.

Attention is directed to the Return recently published under the title of Colonial Import Duties, 1908, which contains information relating to the rates of import duties leviable in British Colonies and Possessions on the principal articles of the produce or manufacture of the United Kingdom. The particulars with respect to the divisions and sub-divisions of the various groups of merchandise given in the Return are stated in the full detail of the Tariff classification of the several Colonies, Possessions and Protectorates.

The Return is arranged with the object of bringing together the Tariff classifications and rates of duty for the different groups of articles, the information being given for each Colony and Possession under each of the following heads:—Yarns of cotton, linen, hemp, jute, silk and wool; woven and other manufactures of the same materials; all kinds of metals and metal manufactures (iron and steel, copper and brass, lead, tin and zinc, as well as wares of gold and silver), including machinery and cutlery; earthenware and porcelain; glass and glasswares; hides, skins and leather, and manufactures thereof; india-rubber and gutta-percha and manufactures thereof; paper, books and stationery; paints, colours and varnishes; chemicals; dyeing and tanning materials; various oils, fats and resins; earths, stones, minerals, &c. (including fireclay, coal, cement, stone and roofing slates); living animals; wood and timber; the principal articles of food and drink; and a number of miscellaneous groups of articles—*e.g.*, arms, clocks and watches, carriages, cycles, tobacco, furniture, matches, perfumery, umbrellas, &c.

The rates shown embrace the latest tariff changes notified to the Board of Trade up to the date of the preparation of the Return (November, 1908).

Particulars as to the preferential tariff advantages accorded in certain Colonies in favour of British goods are also given in the Return, as well as information respecting colonial copyright laws and regulations and parcel post regulations affecting dutiable articles.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade (73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.) is prepared, so far as possible, to furnish information in reply to applications from British traders with regard to the rate of duty levied in British Colonies and Possessions on any articles not included in the Return.

TARIFF CHANGES AND CUSTOMS REGULATIONS.

BRITISH INDIA.

Rules respecting the landing of Explosives at Rangoon.

With reference to the notice which appeared in the "Board of Trade Journal" on 11th July, 1907, relating to the Rules (under Notification No. 4555-4 of 31st May, 1907), respecting the importation, &c., of explosives into British India, a copy of the "Burma Gazette" for 28th November last has been received containing a Notification (No. 161 of 23rd November, 1908), prescribing regulations for the landing at Rangoon of explosives, the importation of which is permitted, under certain conditions, previous to the grant of an importation licence.

The present Notification supersedes Notification No. 377 of 2nd November, 1896, and may be seen by British traders interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH.

Commerce Act: Marking of Gold Swivels.

With reference to the notice which appeared on p. 373 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for 20th August last respecting the marking, under the Australian Commerce Act, of gold swivels imported into the Australian Commonwealth, the Board of Trade have received a copy of a Circular (No. 520 of 1908), dated 11th November, 1908, stating that the springs in swivels of 9 carat gold and under are not to be included in the assay test for the present.

QUEENSLAND.

Importation of Swine prohibited from other Australasian Colonies.

The "Queensland Government Gazette" for 7th November last, contains an Order in Council dated 5th November, 1908, prohibiting the importation into Queensland of any swine or any carcass or portion of any carcass of swine, except in the form of bacon, hams, cured or dressed pork (provided no viscera or portion thereof, in an uncooked state, is allowed to be imported therewith), from the States of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania, and the Dominion of New Zealand.

The Order in Council which is issued in consequence of the existences of swine fever in the above-mentioned colonies is to continue in operation for a period of two years from the date thereof.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

Customs decisions.

The "New Zealand Gazette" for 5th November contains a Minister's Order (No. 892), dated 2nd November, 1908, giving Customs' decisions relating to the rates of duty leviable on various articles imported into the Dominion of New Zealand.

The following are the principal decisions, given :—

Articles.	Tariff Item.	Rates of Import Duty on Articles the growth, produce, or manufacture of	
		Foreign Countries.	Any part of the British Dominions.
Aerographs for use by artists in applying liquid colours...	364	Free.	Free.
Aerograph, pump and tank for operating ...	197	30 % *ad val.*	**20** % *ad val.*
Embroidery threads, gold and silver... ...	485	Free.	Free.
Hoop-iron, tinned			
Labels for blankets, having on them the name or initials of a New Zealand firm ...			
Leather, chrome hide, in strips suitable for making motor car tire protectors			
*Belting—viz., interchangeable or loose link iron-chain belting	197	30 % *ad val.*	**20** % *ad val.*
Hair brushes, in leather cases	261	37½ % „	**25** % „
Coopers' hooks	192	30 % „	**20** % „
Greenstone, cut and shaped for buttons ...	141	20 % „	20 % „
Ice cream cups or wafers	3	2⅔*d.* per lb.	**2***d.* per lb.
Machinery, agricultural— Transport trucks for reapers and binders	362	Free.	Free.
Machinery, dairying— Milk regulating valves for regulating the flow of milk into tester	400	10 % *ad val.*	**Free.**
Mangoes, in brine	486	Free.	Free.
Motor-timer, Larrads', for regulating valves of oil engines	197	30 % *ad val.*	**20** % *ad val.*
Seed germinators	215	30 % „	**20** % „
Wooden moulds for confectioners' or pastry-cooks' use	364	Free.	Free.

* Revised decision.

NETHERLANDS.

Duty Free Admission of certain Chemicals.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of copy and translation of a Dutch Royal Decree, dated the 5th December, providing for the duty-free admission of the following chemicals, viz. :—

(1) an emulsion consisting of a coloured or uncoloured solution of gun-cotton in ether and alcohol to which salts of silver and salts of bromine have been added; (2) sulphuric ether and (3) collodion.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

SWITZERLAND.

Customs Decisions.

The following decisions affecting the application of the Customs Tariff of Switzerland have recently been issued by the Swiss Customs Department :—

Articles.	Tariff No. under which dutiable.	Rate of Duty.
		Frs. cts. *Per 100 kilogs.*
Flour of bananas	16 and 18	2 50* / 20 00†
Dextrose (starch sugar) in the form of syrup	67	2 00
Stoppers of artificial cork	228 *a*	5 00
Discs and washers of cork for corking glass recipients	228 *c*	20 00
Stereotype plates (*Clichés*) for printing, in whatever manner manufactured	902	30 00
Enlarging apparatus (for enlarging photographs) ...	943	20 00
Counters for weaving looms (for counting the weft threads)	948	20 00
Emulsion of bitumen	1059	1 00
Balls for mending stockings	1145	30 00
Chemical water for removing ink, in bottles	1159 *b*	25 00

* In receptacles of all kinds weighing more than 5 kilogs. gross.
† " " " 5 kilogs. gross or less.

GREECE.

Greek State Quinine—Quality and Retail Prices.

With reference to the notice on p. 353 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 14th May, 1908, and to previous notices, on the subject of the Greek "Sale of Quinine" Law, the Board of Trade are now in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of a summary of a statement recently published in the Greek Official Gazette with regard to the quality of the State quinine, together with a list of the prices at which the different preparations of quinine are retailed to the public.

This summary may be inspected by British traders interested at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

TURKEY.

Prohibition of Exportation of Wheat and Barley from Basra Vilayet.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of telegraphic information to the effect that the Turkish Government has decided to prohibit the exportation of wheat and barley from the Basra Vilayet for two months. This prohibition, however, does not apply to grain the exportation of which has been already contracted for.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

VENEZUELA.

Tariff Modifications.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of copy and translation of a Venezuelan Decree, dated 17th November, modifying the Customs duties on certain tissues and on matches, as shown in the subjoined statement:—

Articles.	Rate of duty.	
	Former.	New.
	Bolivars. *Per kilog.*	Bolivars. *Per kilog.*
"*Zarazas*," percale, nainsook, "*rasete*," cotton poplin, cretonnes, calico, "*carlacan*," brilliants, "*malvinas*," Japanese cloths, lustring, striped cottons having more than 13 warp threads in a square of five millimetres, cotton merino, and coloured cotton flannel	2·50	3·25
Muslin, crepon, lawn, "*rengue*" (cotton gauze), barege, grenadine, organdy, zephyr, "*clarin*," "*dulce sueno*," tarlatan, "*imité*," Holland batiste, light cotton batiste, white or coloured, plain, figured, open-worked, or embroidered, in the piece or cut out for articles of clothing (*cortes para vestidos*), coloured cotton etamines, and all other similar tissues not specially mentioned, for women's dresses	5·00	3·25
Matches of all kinds, except "*estrellitas*" or Bengal lights	1·25	2·50

URUGUAY.

Regulation as to percentage of Lead in Solder used for Tinned Goods.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of telegraphic information to the effect that after January 1st next the importation into Uruguay of preserves in tins, which are closed with solder containing more than 5 per cent. of lead, will be prohibited. As a result of representations made by H.M. Minister at Monte Video, the Uruguayan Government have consented to exempt from this regulation all British tinned goods which are shipped to Uruguay before December 31st.

SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT.

DOMINICA.

Piers and Wharves Amendment Act, 1892: Additional Rules and Regulations.

The Board of Trade have received a copy of the following additional rules and regulations made by the Governor-in-Council of Dominica under the provisions of "The Piers and Wharves Amendment Act, 1892":—

Schedule 1* of the Act is amended as follows:—

Sheep, goats and pigs are deleted from the Schedule.

The following are added to the list of "Exemptions" contained in the Schedule:—Animals (sucking), imported with the mother in respect of which full dues have been paid; chalk, whiting and lime imported for the manufacture of citrate of lime; coke; domestic birds and animals; hay; poultry; sheep, goats and pigs; shooks (knocked down barrels and boxes).

The minimum charge on any warrant or voucher shall be one penny in place of fourpence.

* Schedule 1 is a list of the rates chargeable on animals and goods imported or landed in Dominica.

RUSSIA.

Salt from Black Sea to Baltic.

See notice on p. 637.

GERMANY.

Kaiser Wilhelm Canal.

H.M. Consul-General at Hamburg (Sir W. Ward, C.V.O.) reports that during the twelve months ended 31st March, 1908, 34,998 vessels subject to canal dues entered or passed through the Kaiser Wilhelm Canal, their total registered tonnage amounting to 6,423,441 tons. Compared with the previous twelve months, an increase was shown of 1,840 vessels and of 460,316 tons register.

H.M. Consul-General states that the preparatory work of enlarging the canal* has already begun. The entire work will probably occupy about seven or eight years, and its cost is estimated at about 11,000,000*l*. It is intended to deepen the fairway to eleven metres, and it is to be so arranged that the depth may be made as much as fourteen metres, if considered necessary. The breadth of the canal is to be nearly doubled, and new locks are to be built at both ends of the canal, of a length of 330 metres, a breadth of 45 metres, and a depth of 14 metres. This will allow the canal to be used in future by the largest vessels that are ever likely to be built.

* See "Board of Trade Journal" of 4th July, 1907, p. 31.

Shipping and Transport.

MEXICO.

Pan-American Railway open to Mariscal.

H.M. Consul-General at Mexico City (Mr. C. E. W. Stringer) has forwarded an extract from the "Mexican Herald" of 8th December, from which it appears that the Pan-American railway is now open as far as Mariscal, on the Mexican side of the Mexico-Guatemala frontier.

MINERALS, METALS AND MACHINERY.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Enquiry under the Boiler Explosions Act.

A formal investigation was held at Campbel town on the 12th December into a boiler explosion that occurred on a local farm on the 24th September last, causing the death of the owner. The Commissioners found that the explosion was due to the boiler's being subjected to excessive pressure and that the deceased owner was solely responsible for the accident.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH.

Imports of Motor Vehicles.

The Melbourne "Age" of 18th November states that, according to a return presented to the House of Representatives, the number of motor cars and motor cycles imported into the Commonwealth during the period from 1901 to 1907 amounted to 3,559, of which 1,175 were imported into New South Wales, 1,436 into Victoria, 132 into Queensland, 496 into South Australia, 224 into Western Australia, and 96 into Tasmania. The total value of the vehicles was 697,036*l.* The motor cycles imported during the 9 months ended 30th September, 1908, were valued at 12,198*l.*; bodies for motor cars, lorries and waggons at 27,743*l*; and chassis for motor cars, lorries and waggons at 191,800*l.* Under the statistical classification, as altered since the passing of the Customs Tariff 1908, no record is now kept of the number of motor cars imported.

NATAL.

Tin Deposits.

The Board of Trade Correspondent at Durban (Mr. A. D. C. Agnew) has forwarded an extract from the "Natal Mercury" of 27th November, containing a *résumé* of the results of investigations made by a consulting engineer on some tin-bearing ground in Zululand. The engineer in question considers that Natal, in her tin mines, has an asset of some importance, and that the tin mining industry in the Colony possesses great potentialities. The ground referred to

is situated on the western bank of the Umfuli River, above the junction of the Umfuli and the Intonga, and is about ten miles distant from the township of Melmoth.

BRITISH NORTH BORNEO.

Discovery of Pyrites.

The "Straits Budget" of 26th November reports an announcement in the "British North Borneo Herald" of the discovery of pyrites in the Karamuak river, a tributary of the Kinabatangan, in British North Borneo. An analysis of the pyrites found showed that it contained 45·58 per cent. of sulphur, 37·38 per cent. of metallic iron, 5·62 per cent. of metallic copper, 1 dwt. 7 grains of gold per ton of pyrites, and 1 oz. 22 grains of silver per ton of pyrites. The value of the pyrites is estimated at 3*l.* per ton.

RUSSIA.

Imports of Coal, Coke, Patent Fuel and Pig-iron at St. Petersburg.

H.M. Consul at St. Petersburg (Mr. A. W. W. Woodhouse) reports that the importation of foreign coal and coke at St. Petersburg—Cronstadt during the past navigation season showed a considerable increase upon that of any of the ten preceding years. This is attributed to the greater activity shown by the various mills and factories in the neighbourhood of St. Petersburg. The importation of *Russian* coal also showed an increase upon that of the preceding year.

The following figures show the quantities of coal, coke, patent fuel and pig-iron imported at St. Petersburg–Cronstadt during the navigation season of 1908, with corresponding figures for the two preceding years:—

—	1906.	1907.	1908.
Coal—	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Russian	—	17,258	63,816
Foreign	1,640,419	1,604,232	1,934,228
Coke	77,329	67,233	80,300
Patent fuel	44,178	31,376	23,807
Pig-iron	1,182	787	2,186

TUNIS.

Discovery of Iron. Railway Construction.

The "Dépêche Coloniale" (Paris) of 18th December announces that in a lead mine claim in the valley of Medjerda, a large bed of iron ore has been discovered, 105 feet lode. This discovery, taking into consideration the operations already conducted there, will, it is expected, lead to a branch line of railway being constructed to the district.

YARNS AND TEXTILES.

BRITISH INDIA.

Cotton Spinning and Weaving Returns.

The Board of Trade have received a copy of the monthly return issued by the Indian Government, showing the quantity of cotton yarn spun, and of cotton woven goods produced, in each Province in British India, and in the Native States, during September of each of the years 1906, 1907, and 1908.

The following is a summarised statement extracted from the above return, giving particulars for the six months ended September, 1906, 1907, and 1908 :—

		Six Months ended September.		
		1906.	1907.	1908.
BRITISH INDIA, BERAR, AND NATIVE STATES.				
Cotton yarn spun	Lbs.	337,696,796	321,155,820	323,572,982
Grey and bleached piece goods	"	68,520,672	76,681,072	75,323,141
	Yards	306,136,236	337,570,852	337,082 680
Coloured piece goods* ...	Lbs.	13,376,576	15,158,969	16,213,953
	Yards	54,409,368	62,405,154	64,113,951
Grey and coloured goods (other than piece goods)*	Lbs.	727,564	970,953	783,312
Hosiery	"	372,907	387,848	277,143
Miscellaneous goods ...	"	180,272	114,277	73,952

* The quantities of "coloured piece goods" and of "grey and coloured goods (other than piece goods)" produced in the *Native States* not being separately stated, the total amounts are included in the figures given for "coloured piece goods."

AGRICULTURE.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Corn Prices.

The prices of British corn per quarter of 8 bushels, as received from the inspectors and officers of Excise in the week ended the 26th December, 1908, were as follows :—

Wheat	32*s.*	2*d.*
Barley	26*s.*	8*d.*
Oats	17*s.*	2*d.*

For further particulars see p. 668.

Imports of Agricultural Produce.

A statement is published on p. 669, showing the quantities of the various descriptions of agricultural produce imported into the United Kingdom during the week ended the 26th December, 1908, as well as of the imports during the corresponding week of 1907.

Agriculture.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Timber Resources.

The "Pastoralists' Review" (Melbourne) of 16th November states that according to the recently published report of the Royal Commission appointed to enquire into the timber resources of New South Wales, the total quantity of commercial timber at present standing in the State, excluding timber growing on private lands, is estimated at 23,116,000,000 superficial ft., consisting of:—*Hardwoods:* Ironbark, 1,355,000,000 superficial ft.; other hardwoods for milling, 8,668,000,000 superficial ft.; for other purposes, 11,788,000,000 superficial ft.; total, 21,811,000,000 superficial ft. *Softwoods:* Cedar, 5,000,000 superficial ft.; hoop pine, 230,000,000 superficial ft.; other brushwoods, 150,000,000 superficial ft.; cypress pine 920,000,000 superficial ft.; total, 1,305,000,000 superficial ft.

The Commissioners state that, at the present rate of consumption, the quantity of hardwood timber suitable for commercial purposes, estimated to be at present standing on the forest reserves and other Crown lands of the State, will not last more than about thirty-six years, and that the supply of softwoods will be consumed in a little more than twenty years. Amongst other things the Commissioners recommend that the present royalties on certain timber should be increased, and that the export of ironbark and tallowwood beyond the Commonwealth should be prohibited for a period of ten years. Recommendations are also made for the replanting of the most valuable timbers and for the protection of timbers at present standing.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

Export of Fruit.

With reference to the notice on p. 517 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 10th December relative to regulations governing the Government inspection of fruit for export from Cape Colony, the official "Gazette" of the Colony for 4th December publishes various amendments to the said regulations, to take effect from 1st December last. The "Gazette" may be seen by British traders interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES.

Sugar Output.

The "Straits Budget" of 26th November publishes the following statistics of the Java sugar crop of 1908, compared with the output in 1907:—

Altogether, 177 sugar mills are in operation, but the output of sugar in East Java has, so far, been less than in 1907 owing to bad weather. On the other hand, in Mid and

Agriculture.

West Java, the crop has reached higher figures. The yield for the two years is as follows :—

—	1907.	1908.
	Metric tons.	Metric tons.
East Java	692,634	672,578
Mid Java	309,415	345,357
West Java	192,562	204,486

BRAZIL.

H.M. Consul at Bahia (Mr. D. R. O'Sullivan-Beare) writes:—

Cocoa Crop of Bahia.

"The cocoa crop of the State of Bahia for the 1908-9 season promises to be the most abundant on record. The local returns show an excess of over 71,000 bags, equivalent to over 4,000 metric tons, up to the end of October last, as compared with the output for the corresponding period of the 1907-8 season. It is the opinion of competent judges here that the total output of cocoa in the State of Bahia for the 1908-9 season will exceed by some 35,000 bags, equivalent to over 2,000 metric tons, the total output during the 1907-8 season, which amounted to 419,716 bags (=25,182 metric tons)."

Rice Production.

According to the "Brazilian Review," the increasing production of rice in Brazil is evidenced by the fact that imports of this commodity are decreasing, whilst it is now exported in appreciable quantities, especially from the State of São Paulo. The exports of rice from São Paulo during the years 1904-7 were 2,447 tons, 3,266 tons, 2,180 tons and 3,197 tons respectively. During the first nine months of 1908 the Central of Brazil Railway carried 6,490 tons of rice for export.

MISCELLANEOUS.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Cotton Statistics.

The number of bales of cotton **imported** into the United Kingdom during the five days ended the 23rd December, 1908, was 208,466 (including 13 bales British West Indian, 75 bales British East African, and 23 bales foreign East African), and the number imported during the fifty-one weeks and five days ended the 23rd December was 3,897,033 (including 8,554 bales British West Indian, 6,694 bales British West African, 11,214 bales British East African and 219 bales foreign East African). The number of bales **exported**

Miscellaneous.

during the five days ended the 23rd December was 2,879 and during the fifty-one weeks and five days, 403,205.

For further details see p. 668.

BRITISH INDIA.

Fish Oil.

The "Indian Trade Journal" (Calcutta) of 3rd December states that the Commissioner of Fisheries, Bengal, is in a position to place on the market two qualities of skate liver oil—one a good medicinal oil, and the other suitable for oiling machinery, tanning, and such purposes. Both are believed to be rich in stearine and might also prove useful in soap and other factories. The livers contain about 60 per cent. of oil and the Commissioner is prepared to supply them to order, or undertake the extraction of the oil himself should there prove to be a demand for it.

SUDAN.

Gum Forests in the Upper Blue Nile Districts.

The Monthly Report for November, 1908, of the Sudan Government Central Eeconomic Board states, with reference to the large areas of gum forests in the Upper Blue Nile districts, the resources of which are at present practically untouched, that the Government are carrying out experiments in the tapping of gum trees in these districts, the results of which up to the present have been satisfactory. It is hoped that during the present gum season merchants will devote attention to the exploitation of the Blue Nile gum. The limited experieuce gained appears to indicate that they might do so with profit.

SPAIN.

Commercial Missions to Central and South America.

A communication has been received from the British Consulate-General at Barcelona stating that there is at present a considerable movement afoot in that city, and in the province of Catalonia generally, towards establishing a sound export trade to South and Central America. In this connection a commercial mission under the presidency of Sr. Don Pedro Rahola, a member of the Spanish Cortes, and composed of six prominent members of the commercial community of the province, started from Barcelona in April last and visited all the principal cities of South America, exhibiting samples of the various manufactures of Catalonia, particularly silk and cotton goods, and is said to have been of great service to Catalan trade.

A similar expedition is expected to leave Barcelona in the spring of next year.

STATISTICAL TABLES.

Cotton Returns.

Return of the **Number** of **Bales** of **Cotton Imported** and **Exported** at the **Various Ports** of the **United Kingdom** during the 5 days and 51 weeks and 5 days ended 23rd December, 1908 :—

—	5 Days ended 23rd Dec., 1908.	51 Weeks and 5 days ended 23rd Dec., 1908.	5 days ended 23rd Dec., 1908.	51 Weeks and 5 days ended 23rd Dec., 1908.
	IMPORTS. (Bales.)		EXPORTS. (Bales.)	
	No.	No.	No.	No.
American	187,033	3,162,489	1,752	252,928
Brazilian	—	22,583	310	3,070
East Indian	200	126,229	125	56,618
Egyptian	20,027	445,658	150	84,151
Miscellaneous	*1,206	†140,074	542	6,438
Total	208,466	3,897,033	2,879	403,205

* Including 13 bales British West Indian, 75 bales British East African, and 23 bales foreign East African.

† Including 8,554 bales British West Indian, 6,694 bales British West African, 11,214 bales British East African and 219 bales foreign East African.

NOTE.—Cotton "in transit" or "for transhipment under bond," *if described as such in the ships' reports*, is not included in this return.

Corn Prices.

Statement showing the **Average Price** of **British Corn,** per quarter of 8 bushels, Imperial Measure,* as received from the Inspectors and Officers of Excise in the week ended 26th December, 1908, and corresponding weeks of the seven previous years pursuant to the Corn Returns Act, 1882.

—	Average Price.					
	Wheat.		Barley.		Oats.	
	s.	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*
Week ended 26th December, 1908	32	2	26	8	17	2
Corresponding week in—						
1901	27	7	26	7	19	10
1902	25	0	23	11	16	10
1903	26	3	22	1	15	5
1904	30	4	24	8	16	2
1905	28	3	24	7	18	1
1906	26	0	24	1	17	3
1907	34	6	26	10	18	0

* Section 8 of the Corn Returns Act, 1882, provides that where returns of purchases of British Corn are made to the local inspector of Corn Returns in any other measure than the Imperial bushel or by weight or by a weighed measure that officer shall convert such returns into the Imperial bushel, and in the case of weight or weighed measure the conversion is to be made at the rate of sixty Imperial pounds for every bushel of wheat, fifty Imperial pounds for every bushel of barley, and thirty-nine Imperial pounds for every bushel of oats.

Imports of Agricultural Produce into the United Kingdom.

Account showing the Quantities of certain kinds of **Agricultural Produce** imported into the **United Kingdom** in the week ended 26th December, 1908, together with the quantities imported in the corresponding week of the previous year.

—		Week ended 26th Dec., 1908.	*Corresponding Week in 1907.*
Animals, living:—			
Oxen, bulls, cows, and calves	Number.	3,594	*6,659*
Sheep and lambs	"	—	*957*
Swine	"	—	—
Horses	"	138	*71*
Fresh meat:—			
Beef (including refrigerated and frozen) ...	Cwts.	107,302	*69,574*
Mutton " " " ...	"	36,067	*65,573*
Pork " " " ...	"	17,557	*10,928*
Salted or preserved meat:—			
Bacon	Cwts.	75,541	*54,599*
Beef	"	2,230	*1,692*
Hams	"	12,208	*10,886*
Pork	"	4,260	*2,355*
Meat, unenumerated, fresh	"	9,177	*6,901*
" " salted	"	993	*676*
" preserved otherwise than by salting (including tinned and canned)	"	6,419	*6,314*
Dairy produce and substitutes:—			
Butter	Cwts.	77,741	*62,264*
Margarine	"	14,979	*14,356*
Cheese	"	13,908	*12,938*
Milk, fresh, in cans or drums	"	—	—
" cream	"	121	*149*
" condensed	"	15,613	*10,657*
" preserved, other kinds	"	28	*60*
Eggs	Grt. Hundr.	225,021	*303,424*
Poultry	Value £	135,398	*25,534*
Game	"	727	*2,852*
Rabbits, dead (fresh and frozen)	Cwts.	5,122	*11,365*
Lard	"	26,542	*19,593*
Corn, grain, meal, and flour:—			
Wheat	Cwts.	1,091,800	*1,135,700*
Wheat meal and flour	"	284,200	*265,300*
Barley	"	186,800	*377,200*
Oats	"	86,000	*225,200*
Peas	"	24,490	*15,960*
Beans	"	48,930	*66,520*
Maize or Indian corn	"	658,200	*523,400*
Fruit, raw:—			
Apples	Cwts.	49,218	*30,921*
Apricots and peaches	"	9	*88*
Bananas	Bunches.	12,817	*11,771*
Cherries	Cwts.	—	—
Currants	"	—	—
Gooseberries	"	—	—
Grapes	"	441	*136*
Lemons	"	5,691	*11,188*
Oranges	"	145,396	*157,893*
Pears	"	245	*869*
Plums	"	—	—
Strawberries	"	—	—
Unenumerated	"	1,484	*430*
Hay	Tons	937	*1,644*
Straw	"	263	*891*
Moss litter	"	1,365	*1,862*
Hops	Cwts.	7,320	*3,421*
Locust beans	"	2,680	*30,240*
Vegetables, raw:—			
Onions	Bushels.	70,512	*119,697*
Potatoes	Cwts.	7,520	*65,411*
Tomatoes	"	14,066	*13,586*
Unenumerated	Value £	6,164	*3,957*
Vegetables, dried	Cwts.	2,416	*1,609*
Preserved by canning	"	6,983	*2,728*

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

TRADE RETURNS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The Monthly Accounts relating to the Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom for the month of November, 1908, have been published. The accounts, which are issued on the 7th or 8th of each month, may be purchased at a cost, in the present instance, of 1*s.* 4*d.* per copy, either directly or through any bookseller, from Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Fetter Lane, E.C., and 32, Abingdon Street, S.W.; or Messrs. Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh; or Edward Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street, Dublin.

Attention is further called to the fact that two volumes and a Supplement of the "Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom with Foreign Countries and British Possessions" for the year 1907 have been issued, and may be purchased at any of the addresses enumerated above at a cost of 5*s.* 7*d.* for the first volume, 3*s.* 4*d.* for the second volume, and 3*s.* 10*d.* for the supplement. This publication, which contains much more detailed and exhaustive information than can be given in the Monthly Accounts, gives in the first volume abstract tables for the years 1903-1907, and detailed statements of imports and exports of each article (from and to each country), in the second volume details as to Customs revenue, transhipments and articles in bond, with particulars of the trade of the United Kingdom with each foreign country and British possession, and of the trade at each port of the United Kingdom, and in the Supplement abstract and detailed tables showing countries of *consignment* of imports and countries of *ultimate destination* of exports.

BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE.

The "Board of Trade Labour Gazette"* is published by the Board of Trade on the 16th of each month. The following are among the more important articles which appear in the December issue:—State of the Labour Market in November; Course of Wages and Prices in the United States; Accidents to Railway Servants; Compensation for Industrial Diseases; Labour Statistics of the United Kingdom; Recent Cases under the Conciliation Act.

FOREIGN OFFICE REPORT.

The following is a *résumé* of the contents of a Consular Report of the **Annual Series** issued during the past week:—

No. 4,175. Foreign Trade of Italy in 1907.

Wine and corn crops.
Sulphur industry.
Silk industry.
Imports and exports.
Commercial treaties.

* It can be purchased through any newsagent, price 1*d.*

Government Publications.

COLONIAL OFFICE REPORTS.

The following reports have been issued by the Colonial Office during the past week:—

590. Grenada, 1907.

591. Leeward Islands, 1907-8.

OTHER GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

Colonial Import Duties, 1908. *Return relating to the Rates of Import Duties levied upon the Principal and other Articles Imported into the British Colonies, Possessions and Protectorates.* [*Cd.* 4,383.] *Price* 3*s.*

This Return shows the duties in force, so far as notified to the Board of Trade, at the date of preparation of the Return, viz., November, 1908. [See article on p. 656.]

Statistical Abstract for the several British Colonies, Possessions and Protectorates in each year from 1893 *to* 1907. *Forty-fifth number.* [*Cd.* 4,415.] *Price* 2*s.*

This publication, which is prepared annually in the Statistical Department of the Board of Trade, contains in a succinct form the principal official data regarding the trade, shipping, agriculture, production, revenue, expenditure, &c., &c., of the various British Colonies, Possessions and Protectorates, as well as an abstract of the rates of import duty levied in the various Colonies on the principal articles of trade.

Fair Wages Committee. Report. [*Cd.* 4,422.]. *Price* 5½*d.*; *Minutes of Evidence.* [*Cd.* 4,423.]. *Price* 2*s.* 7*d.*

Banking, Railway and Shipping Statistics, Ireland (*June,* 1908). [*Cd.* 4,060.]. *Price* 7½*d.*

This is the half-yearly report on the banking, railway and shipping statistics of Ireland, issued by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, and deals with the period January-June, 1908. The deposits and cash balances in joint stock banks amounted on the 30th June, 1908, to 50,596,000*l.* (excluding 2,915,000*l.* Government and other public accounts in the Bank of Ireland), being the highest amount for June of which there is record, and 2,529,000*l.* in excess of that for June, 1907. The estimated amount in the Post Office Savings Banks in Ireland on the 30th June, 1908, was 10,627,000*l.*, as compared with 10,637,000*l.* for the corresponding period of 1907. The receipts of Irish railways during the first half of the year 1908 amounted to 1,924,514*l.*, a decrease of 14,648*l.*, or 0·8 per cent., as compared with the receipts during the first half of 1907.

Government Publications.

FOREIGN OFFICE REPORTS.

THE following Reports of H.M. Diplomatic and Consular Officers, which have been issued in the **Annual** and **Miscellaneous** Series since the 1st January, 1908, may be obtained from Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Fetter Lane, E.C.

The titles of the Miscellaneous Series are printed in Italic type.

No.	Place.	Price
	EUROPE—	
	Austria-Hungary:	
4062	Austria—Hungary, 1907 ...	1½*d.*
4092	Bohemia, 1907	1*d.*
4033	Bosnia and Herzegovina, 1907	4½*d.*
4109	Finances, 1907-8	2*d.*
4099	Fiume, 1907...	2½*d.*
3963	Hungary: Economic Condition in 1906 and 1907...	1½*d.*
4172	Trieste, 1907	4*d.*
	Belgium:	
3968	Antwerp: Shipping in 1907	2½*d.*
4147	Belgium, 1907, and first half of 1908	4*d.*
3985	Finances, 1907	1½*d.*
	Bulgaria:	
4132	Bulgaria, 1907	3½*d.*
	Denmark:	
4089	Denmark, 1907	2½*d.*
3967	„ Finances, 1905–6 and 1906–7	3*d.*
4107	Faroe Islands and Iceland, 1907	1½*d.*
	France and Colonies:	
4164	Algeria, 1907	4½*d.*
4019	Bordeaux, 1907	4*d.*
4050	Budget, 1908	2½*d.*
4068	Calais, 1907	2½*d*
4133	Cherbourg, 1907	2½*d.*
4028	Cochin-China, 1907 ...	1*d.*
3981	Corsica, 1907	2*d.*
4007	Dunkirk, 1907	2*d.*
4158	France, 1907, and first six months of 1908	2*d.*
4063	Havre, 1907...	2½*d.*
4117	Indo-China, 1907	3½*d.*
4066	Lyons, 1907...	2½*d*
4113	Madagascar, 1907	2½*d*
4029	Marseilles, 1907	2½*d*
4114	Martinique, 1907	3*d.*
3972	Nantesand St. Nazaire, 1907	1*d.*
3971	New Caledonia, 1907 ...	3*d.*
4053	Nice, 1907	1*d.*
4046	Pondicherry and Karikal, 1907	½*d.*
3973	Réunion, 1907	½*d.*
4022	Rouen, 1907...	1*d.*
4077	St. Pierre and Miquelon, '07	4*d.*
4010	Society Islands, 1907 ...	4½*d.*
4140	Tunis, 1907	3*d.*
669	*Chemical, Metal and Mining Industries of Consular District of Lyons in* 1907	1*d.*

No.	Place.	Price
	EUROPE (*continued*)—	
	Germany:	
4070	Baden, 1907...	½*d.*
4136	Bavaria, 1907 and part of 1908	2*d.*
4001	Berlin, 1907...	4½*d.*
4071	Dantzig, 1907	4½*d.*
3960	Finances, 1907–8	3*d.*
4084	Frankfort, 1907	6½*d.*
4123	Hamburg, 1907	5*d.*
4008	Leipzig and Chemnitz, 1907	2*d.*
4095	Pomerania, 1907	3*d.*
4017	Samoa, 1907	3*d.*
4059	Westphalia and the Rhenish Provinces, 1907	3½*d.*
	Greece:	
4002	Corfu, 1907	1½*d.*
3990	Cyclades, 1907	4½*d.*
3989	Morea, Ætolia and Acarnania, 1907	3*d.*
4032	Piræus, 1907	2½*d.*
4034	Thessaly, 1907	3*d.*
	Italy:	
4037	Finances, 1907	1½*d.*
4118	Florence, 1907	4½*d.*
4175	Foreign Trade, 1907 ...	1½*d.*
4020	Genoa, 1907...	4½*d.*
4048	Lecce, 1907	5*d.*
4143	Leghorn, 1907	1*d.*
4145	Lombardy, 1907	3*d.*
3987	Rome, 1907	1½*d.*
4025	Sicily, 1907	5*d.*
3959	South Italy, 1907	3*d.*
4097	„ „ (supplementary)	2*d.*
4122	Venice, 1906-7	2½*d.*
	Netherlands and Colonies:	
3964	Amsterdam, 1907	2*d*
4016	Curaçoa, 1907	1*d.*
3991	Java, 1907	4½*d*
4168	Netherlands, 1907-8 ...	1½*d.*
4030	Rotterdam and Flushing, 1907	2*d.*
4094	Surinam	4*d.*
	Norway:	
4018	Budget, 1908-9	½*d.*
3997	Norway, 1907	3*d.*
4174	„ „ (supplementary)	2*d.*
	Portugal and Colonies:	
3977	Azores, 1907...	1½*d.*
3955	Goa, 1906	1*d.*
4069	Madeira, 1907	2*d.*

Government Publications.

No.	Place.	Price
	EUROPE (*continued*)—	
4023	Mozambique, 1907	2*d.*
4004	Oporto, 1907	4*d.*
	Roumania:	
4005	Roumania, 1907	3*d.*
	Russia:	
3996	Batoum, 1907	5*d.*
4079	Finland, 1907	2*d.*
4072	Moscow, 1907	2½*d.*
4138	Odessa, 1907	5*d.*
3988	Poland and Lithuania, 1907	3½*d.*
4155	Riga, 1907	4½*d.*
4027	Rostov-on-Don, 1907 ...	4½*d.*
3966	Russia, 1907...	1*d.*
4163	Russian Budget, report for 1908	1½*d.*
4110	St. Petersburg, 1907 ...	5*d.*
670	*Report on the Lumber Industry in the Russian Far East*	2½*d.*
	Servia:	
4112	Finances, 1908	1*d.*
3962	Servia, 1906...	1½*d.*
4131	„ 1907...	1½*d.*
	Spain:	
4119	Asturias, Galicia and Leon, 1907	1½*d.*
4091	Barcelona, 1907	4½*d.*
4153	Bilbao, 1907...	5½*d.*
4047	Canary Islands, 1907 ...	2½*d.*
4012	Malaga, 1907	3*d.*
4045	Seville, 1907	4*d.*
3957	Spain, 1906	7½*d.*
4157	„ 1907	6*d.*
	Sweden:	
3950	Finances, 1905–8	1½*d.*
4149	Gothenburg, 1907	2½*d.*
4126	Stockholm, 1907	5½*d*
	Switzerland:	
3961	Switzerland, 1906	2*d.*
	Turkey:	
3975	Adrianople, 1907	2*d.*
4061	Aleppo and Adana, 1907 ...	3½*d.*
4073	Baghdad, 1907	4½*d.*
4142	Beirut and Coast of Syria, 1907	2½*d.*
4024	Basra, 1907	2*d.*
4009	Constantinople, 1907 ...	2½*d.*
4056	Crete, 1907	4½*d.*
4080	Damascus, 1907	1*d.*
4115	Erzeroum, 1907	3*d.*
4130	Jeddah, 1907	1*d.*
4040	Monastir, 1907	4*d.*
4116	Mosul, 1907	½*d.*

No.	Place.	Price
	EUROPE (*continued*)—	
3974	Palestine, 1907	1½*d.*
4121	Salonica, 1907	3½*d.*
4141	Smyrna, 1907	2½*d.*
	AFRICA—	
	Egypt:	
4127	Alexandria, 1907	6*d.*
4088	Port Said and Suez, 1907 ...	5*d.*
	Morocco:	
4146	Casablanca, 1907	3*d.*
4167	Tangier, 1907	4½*d.*
	Zanzibar:	
4058	Zanzibar and Pemba, 1907	3½*d.*
	ASIA—	
	Bahrain Islands:	
4161	Trade in 1907-8	2*d.*
	China:	
4014	Amoy, 1907...	3*d.*
3992	Antung, 1907	1*d.*
4082	Canton, 1907	1*d.*
4137	Changsha, 1907	1*d.*
4129	Chefoo, 1907	4*d.*
4152	China, 1907	5½*d.*
4159	Chinan Fu, 1907	5*d.*
4011	Chinkiang, 1907	4*d.*
4081	Chungking, 1907	1*d.*
4160	Foochow, 1907	2½*d.*
4015	Hankow, 1907	5½*d.*
4103	Ichang, 1907	½*d.*
4031	Kiukiang, 1907	2½*d.*
4124	Kiungchow (Hoihow), 1907	2½*d.*
4042	Nanking, 1907	2*d.*
4000	Newchwang. 1907	2½*d.*
4036	Ningpo, 1907	2½*d.*
4060	Pakhoi, 1907	2*d.*
4108	Shanghai, 1907	1½*d.*
4104	Shasi, 1907	½*d.*
4125	Swatow, 1907	2½*d.*
4067	Teng Yueh, 1907	3½*d.*
4150	Wenchow, 1907	⅔*d.*
4065	Wuchow, 1907	4*d.*
3984	Wuhu, 1907...	3*d.*
671	*Report on the Physical, Commercial, &c., conditions of Ichang and neighbourhood*	3*d.*
	Corea:	
4120	Corea, 1907	2*d.*
	Japan:	
4013	Dairen (Dalny), 1907 ...	2½*d.*
4003	Hakodate, 1907	6½*d.*
4026	Japan, 1907...	4½*d.*
3983	Kobe, 1907	4½*d.*
4151	Nagasaki, 1907	3*d.*
4041	North Formosa, 1907 ...	3*d.*
4106	Shimonoseki, 1907	2½*d.*
4083	Tainan, 1907	1½*d.*
668	*The Hokkaido*	2½*d.*

Government Publications.

No.	Place.	Price
	ASIA (*continued*)—	
	Muscat:	
4085	Muscat, 1907-8	1*d.*
	Persia:	
4134	Arabistan, 1907	2½*d.*
4076	Bunder Abbas and Lingah, 1907	3½*d.*
3951	Bushire, 1906–7	3*d.*
4087	Kerman, 1907–8	2*d.*
3953	Kermanshah, 1906-7 ...	1½*d.*
4100	„ 1907–8 ...	1½*d.*
4006	Khorasan, 1906-7	2*d.*
4162	„ 1907-8	4½*d*
3970	Seistan & Kain, 1906–7 ...	2*d.*
4156	„ „ 1907-8 ...	4*d.*
	Siam:	
4105	Chiengmai, 1907	2½*d.*
3999	Saiburi & Puket, 1907 ...	1*d.*
	AMERICA, NORTH—	
	Mexico:	
3958	Budget, Report for 1908–9...	1½*d*
4102	Mexico, 1907	2½*d.*
3994	Progreso, 1907	1*d.*
3993	Salina Cruz, 1907	½*d.*
4051	Tampico, 1907	1*d.*
4021	Vera Cruz, 1907	1½*d*
	United States of America:	
3982	Baltimore, 1907	2½*d.*
4038	Boston, 1907	3½*d.*
4093	Chicago, 1907	4*d.*
3980	Finances, 1906–7	2*d.*
4039	Galveston, 1907	2½*d*
3979	Hawaii, 1906–7	3*d.*
4055	New Orleans, 1907... ...	2½*d*
4035	New York, 1907	2*d.*
4057	States of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana, 1907	1*d.*
4148	Do., do.: Agriculture, 1907.	1*d.*
4043	Philadelphia, 1907	2*d.*
4171	Philippine Islands, 1907 ...	4*d.*
4049	Porto Rico, 1907	1½*d.*
3998	San Francisco, 1907 ...	3*d.*
3986	Savannah, 1907	1½*d.*
3969	United States, 1907 ...	3*d.*
	AMERICA, CENTRAL—	
	Costa Rica:	
4090	Costa Rica, 1907	1*d.*
	Guatemala:	
4101	Guatemala, 1907	2½*d.*
4098	Quezaltenango, 1907 ...	½*d.*
	AMERICA, CENTRAL— *continued.*	
	Honduras	
3995	Honduras, 1906–7	½*d.*
	Panama:	
4144	Panama, 1907	3*d.*
	AMERICA, SOUTH—	
	Argentine Republic:	
4064	Buenos Ayres, 1907... ...	2*d.*
4078	Rosario, 1907	2½*d.*
	Bolivia:	
4128	Bolivia, 1907...	2½*d.*
	Brazil:	
4096	Bahia, 1907	2½*d.*
4054	Brazil, 1907	1½*d.*
4154	„ „ (Supplementary)	2½*d.*
4111	Pará, 1907	7½*d.*
4139	Pernambuco, 1907	1½*d.*
3952	Santos, 1905–6	2½*d.*
4075	„ 1907...	1½*d.*
„	„ „ Annex... ...	2*d.*
667	*Mining Industry in the State of Minas Geraes* ...	1½*d.*
	Chile:	
3978	Chile, 1907	8½*d.*
3976	Coquimbo, 1907	2*d.*
	Colombia:	
3956	Colombia, 1907	1*d.*
	Ecuador:	
4173	Ecuador, 1907	1*d.*
	Paraguay:	
4086	Paraguay, 1907	3*d.*
	Peru:	
4074	Peru, 1907	4*d.*
	Uruguay:	
4052	Uruguay, 1907	4*d.*
4135	„ „ (Supplementary)	½*d.*
	Venezuela:	
3965	Ciudad Bolivar, 1907 ...	2½*d.*
	WEST INDIES—	
3954	Cuba, 1906	1*d.*
4169	Cuban Budget, Report for 1908-9	1*d.*
4044	Hayti and Santo Domingo, 1907	2*d.*
	PACIFIC ISLANDS—	
4170	Friendly Islands, 1907 ...	1*d.*

Government Publications.

Treaty Series.

The following numbers of the Treaty Series, issued by the Foreign Office since the 1st January, 1908, may be obtained from Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Ltd., Fetter Lane, E.C.:—

No.	———	Price.
	Trinidad and Tobago:	
11	Accession of Trinidad and Tobago to the Industrial Property Convention of 1883, as modified by the Additional Act of 1900	½*d.*
	Egypt:	
2	Agreement additional to the Commercial Convention between the United Kingdom and Egypt of 29th October, 1889 ...	½*d.*
	Russia:	
12	Protocol recording accession of Russia to the International Sugar Convention of 5th March, 1902, and Additional Act of 28th August, 1907	2*d.*
	Norway:	
4	Treaty between the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Norway and Russia respecting the Independence and Territorial Integrity of Norway	½*d.*
	Sweden:	
6	Accession of Sweden to the International Sanitary Convention signed at Paris, December 3rd, 1903	½*d.*
	Sweden and Norway:	
13	Notes exchanged between the United Kingdom and Sweden and Norway relative to the Agreement of 12th July, 1881, for the Mutual Relief of Distressed Seamen	½*d.*
	Germany:	
8	Supplementary Agreement between the United Kingdom and Germany respecting Commercial Travellers' Samples ...	½*d.*
28	Agreement and Protocol between the United Kingdom and Germany with regard to Sleeping Sickness	½*d.*
	France:	
3	Exchange of Notes between the United Kingdom and France respecting the New Hebrides	2½*d.*
7	Convention between the United Kingdom and France respecting Commercial Relations between France and Barbados	½*d.*
10	Agreement between the United Kingdom and France respecting Death Duties	½*d.*
33	Convention between the United Kingdom and France respecting the Exchange of Post Office Money Orders between France and the Transvaal, signed at London, 25th January, 1908	½*d.*
34	Exchange of Notes between the United Kingdom and France renewing, for a further period of five years, the arbitration agreement signed at London, 14th October, 1903	½*d.*
	Belgium:	
24	Agreement between the United Kingdom and Belgium concerning the exchange of insured letters and boxes ...	½*d.*

Government Publications.

No.	———	Price.
	Spain:	
9	Accession of Spain to the Declaration respecting Maritime Law signed at Paris, April 16th, 1856	½*d.*
16	Agreement between the United Kingdom and Spain amending Article 5 of the Agreement of November 25th, 1875, respecting the Postal Service between Gibraltar and Spain	½*d.*
	Italy:	
20	Agreement between the United Kingdom and Italy respecting Commercial Travellers' Samples	½*d.*
	Bulgaria:	
1	Commercial Convention, Protocol, and Declaration between the United Kingdom and Bulgaria	3*d.*
31	Accessions of British Colonies, &c., to the Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation between the United Kingdom and Bulgaria, signed at Sofia on 9th December, 1905 ...	½*d.*
32	Procès-Verbal between the United Kingdom and Bulgaria respecting Customs Duties, supplementary to the Commercial Convention of 9th December, 1905, signed at Sofia, on 13th November, 1908	½*d.*
	Servia:	
13	Treaty of Commerce between the United Kingdom and Servia	2*d.*
	United States of America:	
17	Convention between the United Kingdom and the United States of America respecting the Protection, Preservation and Propagation of Food Fishes in the Waters contiguous to the United States and the Dominion of Canada ...	½*d.*
18	Treaty between the United Kingdom and the United States of America respecting the Demarcation of the International Boundary between the United States and the Dominion of Canada	1*d.*
21	Arbitration Convention between the United Kingdom and the United States of America, together with an Exchange of Notes as to the Interpretation of Article 2	½*d.*
22	Treaty between the United Kingdom and the United States of America providing (1) for the conveyance of persons in custody for trial either in the Dominion of Canada or the United States through the territory of the other; and (2) for reciprocal rights in wrecking and salvage in the waters contiguous to the boundary between the Dominion of Canada and the United States	½*d.*
	Panama:	
15	Parcel Post Agreement between the United Kingdom and Panamá	1*d.*
	Colombia:	
5	Accession of Colombia to the Convention signed at Geneva, 6th July, 1906, for the amelioration of the condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armies in the Field	½*d.*
	Paraguay:	
14	Declaration between the United Kingdom and Paraguay amending the Treaty of Commerce of 16th October, 1884..	½*d.*
	Abyssinia:	
27	Agreement between the United Kingdom and Ethiopia relative to the Frontiers between British East Africa, Uganda and Ethiopia	1*s.* 0½*d.*

Government Publications.

No.	———	Price.
	Liberia:	
26	Agreement between the United Kingdom and Liberia modifying the Treaty of Commerce of 21st November, 1848	½*d.*
30	Accession of Liberia to the International Copyright Convention of 9th September, 1886, and the Additional Act and Declaration of 4th May, 1896	½*d.*
23	Declaration and Memorandum between the United Kingdom, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden, concerning the maintenance of the *Status Quo* in the Territories bordering upon the North Sea	½*d.*
29	Protocol between the United Kingdom, the Independent State of the Congo, France, Germany, Portugal and Spain, prohibiting the importation of firearms, ammunition, &c., within a certain zone in Western Equatorial Africa ...	½*d.*

COLONIAL OFFICE REPORTS.

The following Reports relating to H.M. Colonial Possessions, issued since the 1st January, 1908, may be purchased from Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Fetter Lane, E.C.:—

No.	Place.	Price.
	Annual—	
553	St. Lucia, 1906–7	2*d.*
554	Southern Nigeria, 1906	11*d.*
555	St. Vincent, 1906–7	2*d.*
556	Basutoland, 1906-7	3*d.*
557	East Africa Protectorate	3*d.*
558	Uganda Protectorate	2*d.*
559	Swaziland, 1906-7	1*d.*
560	St. Helena, 1907	3½*d.*
561	Ceylon, 1907	3*d.*
562	Falkland Islands, 1907	1½*d.*
563	Gibraltar, 1907	1½*d.*
564	Ashanti, 1907	2*d.*
565	Report of the Colonial Survey Committee, 1907-8—Surveys of British Africa, Ceylon, and the Federated Malay States	1*s.* 10*d.*
566	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast, 1907	2*d.*
567	Seychelles, 1907...	2½*d.*
568	Bermuda, 1907	2*d.*
569	Weihaiwei, 1907	1½*d.*
570	Hong Kong, 1907	2*d.*
571	Malta, 1907–8	2½*d.*
572	British Honduras, 1907...	2*d.*
573	Gold Coast, 1907	4*d.*
574	Nyasaland Protectorate, 1907–8	3*d.*
575	Bahamas, 1907-8	3*d.*
—	Cyprus, 1907–8	4*d.*
576	Gambia, 1907	2*d.*
577	St. Vincent, 1907–8	2½*d.*
578	Turks and Caicos Islands, 1907	1*d.*
579	St. Lucia, 1907	3*d.*
580	Fiji, 1907	2½*d.*
581	Mauritius, 1907	6*d.*

Government Publications.

No.	Place.	Price.
	Annual—*continued*—	
582	Straits Settlements, 1907	5*d.*
583	Southern Nigeria, 1907...	5½*d.*
584	Report on the Work of the Imperial Institute, 1906 and 1907	4*d.*
585	Barbados, 1907–8	2½*d.*
586	Somaliland Protectorate, 1907–8	2*d.*
587	Trinidad and Tobago, 1907–8	3½*d.*
588	Sierra Leone, 1907	5*d.*
589	British Guiana, 1907-8	4*d.*
590	Grenada, 1907	3½*d.*
591	Leeward Islands, 1907-8	2*d.*
	Miscellaneous—	
45	East Africa Protectorate: Geology	6*d.*
46	Northern Nigeria: Mineral Survey, 1904-5 (Second Report)	2*d.*
47	Northern Nigeria: Mineral Survey, 1905–6	2½*d.*
48	Nyasaland Protectorate: Mineral Survey, 1906–7 ...	2½*d.*
49	East Africa Protectorate: Veterinary Department, 1906–7	3½*d.*
50	British Cotton Cultivation	2½*d.*
51	Southern Nigeria: Forest Administration, 1906	5*d.*
52	South Africa: Native Education (Part III.—Education in the Protectorates)	3½*d.*
53	East Africa Protectorate: Veterinary Bacteriological Work, 1907-8	1*d.*
54	Newfoundland: Report by the Governor on a Visit to the Micmac Indians at Bay D'Espoir	2*d.*
55	Cape Colony: Rietfontein Area	2*d.*
56	Turks and Caicos Islands: Salt Industry	2½*d.*

Confidential Information.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade has for several years been in the habit of forwarding to Chambers of Commerce for the confidential use of their members, but not for publication, information (chiefly as to openings abroad for British trade) to which it has appeared desirable in the interests of British trade to draw attention confidentially. The plan met with general approval, and last year, in order to attain more fully the purpose of the Board, namely, to reach all British manufacturers or traders interested, it was decided, on the recommendation of the Commercial Intelligence Committee, to supplement the above-mentioned system by opening at the Commercial Intelligence Branch, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C., a Register of British firms who might desire to receive confidential information relative to their respective trades. The Register was opened in January, 1907, and a considerable number of British firms have since applied and had their names entered.

British firms desiring to have their names entered on this Register should fill up and forward to the Commercial Intelligence Branch a form of application, copies of which may be obtained at the offices of the Branch.

The admission to the Register, as well as the retention upon it, of any firm is at the discretion of the Board of Trade.

No charge is made for information supplied, but every firm admitted to the Register is required to become a subscriber to the "Board of Trade Journal" (and to register as such with the sale agents, Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Limited, Fetter Lane, London, E.C.), in order to ensure that those who are desirous of receiving such confidential information should first be in possession of all the official information relating to their particular trade which is published in that Journal. The annual subscription to the Journal, including postage, is 15*s.* 2*d.*

The present scheme is provisional and experimental, and its continuance and future development will depend on the results of experience.

NOTE.—Apart from the special Register, the Branch is always ready, as far as possible, to answer enquiries on specific questions in the interest of British trade.

Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade.

The Intelligence Branch of the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade (73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.) is intended to be a centre at which information on all subjects of commercial interest shall be collected and classified in a form convenient for reference, and at which, so far as the interests of British trade permit, replies shall be given to enquiries by traders on commercial matters. On application being made to it either personally or by letter, the Branch supplies, so far as is possible, information with regard to the following subjects, viz.: Commercial Statistics; Matters relating to Foreign and Colonial Tariffs and Customs Regulations; Lists of Firms Abroad engaged in particular lines of business in different localities; Foreign and Colonial Contracts open to Tender; Sources of Supply, Prices, &c., of Trade Products; Forms of Certificates of Origin; Regulations concerning Commercial Travellers, &c., &c.

There is a Sample Room at the offices of the Branch, where, in addition to samples illustrative of reports of H.M. Consuls or of the Correspondents or Special Commissioners of the Board of Trade, specimens of special interest that may be received from India, the Colonies, &c., are exhibited from time to time.

The Governments of Canada and Queensland have established, in proximity to the Commercial Intelligence Branch, at 73, Basinghall Street, special offices for dealing with trade matters (see below).

The "Board of Trade Journal" is the principal medium through which intelligence collected by the Commercial Intelligence Branch, and intended for general information, is conveyed to the public. The "Journal" is issued weekly at the price of 3*d*. All applications respecting subscription, or the purchase of single copies, should be addressed in London to Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Ltd., Fetter Lane, E.C.; in Edinburgh to Messrs. Oliver & Boyd; and in Dublin to Edward Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street. Copies may also be obtained from Messrs. G. Street & Co., Ltd., 30, Cornhill, E.C.

All communications intended for the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade should be addressed to: *The Director, Commercial Intelligence Branch, Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.*

Colonial Trade Enquiry Offices.

Trade Enquiry Offices are maintained in London by certain Colonial Governments at the following addresses:—

Canada	73, Basinghall Street, E.C.
Australian Commonwealth	72, Victoria Street, S.W.
New Zealand	13, Victoria Street, S.W.
Queensland	73, Basinghall Street, E.C.
Victoria	142, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.
New South Wales ...	123-5, Cannon Street, E.C.
South Australia... ...	28, Bishopsgate Street Within, E.C
Cape of Good Hope ...	98, Victoria Street, S.W.
Natal	26, Victoria Street, S.W.

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Edited by the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade.

DECEMBER 31, 1908.

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* *For list of principal publications of Board of Trade see p. i. of Advertisements.*

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Paints, varnishes, &c.

Contractors will be required to pay trade union rates of wages and observe trade union hours of labour in respect of any persons employed in or about a contract, and not to sublet any portion of the contract without permission.

Forms of tender, specifications, and all particulars may be obtained on application to the Borough Surveyor, Mr. Harley Heckford, A.M.I.C.E., at the Council Offices, on payment of a deposit of one guinea in cash, which will be refunded on receipt of a bona-fide tender and the return of all documents.

Samples may be inspected at the Council's depots.

Sealed tenders, endorsed with the inscription of the work tendered for, to be delivered to the undersigned on or before noon on Monday, the 25th January, 1909.

The Committee do not bind themselves to recommend the acceptance of the lowest or any tender.

LEONARD POTTS,
Town Clerk.

Council Offices, High-Street, Poplar,
18th December, 1908.

Manchester Corporation Gas Works.

The Gas Committee invite tenders for the supply and delivery of the fireclay goods required during next season at their several Gas Works.

Full particulars and forms of tender may be obtained from Mr. C. Nickson, Superintendent, at the Gas Offices, Town Hall, Manchester, on payment of a deposit of two guineas, which will be returned on receipt of a bona-fide Tender.

Sealed tenders, endorsed "Tender for Fireclay Goods," addressed to the Chairman of the Gas Committee, must be delivered at the Gas Offices, Town Hall, Manchester, on or before Friday, the 8th January, 1909.

The Gas Committee do not bind themselves to accept any tender, and reserve to themselves the right to divide any offer as they may deem advisable.

By Order,
WM. HENRY TALBOT,
Town Clerk.

Town Hall, Manchester,
18th December, 1908.

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CONTRACTS.

Beckenham Urban Dislrict Council.

The Urban District Council are prepared to receive tenders for the supply of Electricity Meters.

Specifications, general conditions, and forms of tender may be obtained on payment to the Council's collector at the Council's offices, Bromley Road, of the sum of two guineas. This sum is required as a deposit, and will, after the Council have entered into a contract upon the tenders received, but not before, be returned to the tenderer, provided that he shall have sent in a *bona-fide* tender, and shall not have withdrawn the same. In any other case this deposit will be forfeited,

For any further information with regard to the proposed contract application should be made to the Resident Engineer, Mr. J. E. Tapper, Electricity Works, Church Fields Road, Beckenham.

The tenders must be sent in on the official form, and all instructions contained therein must be complied with.

Tenders, endorsed "Meters" must be addressed to the undersigned, and delivered at the Urban District Council Offices, Beckenham, not later than 4 p.m. on Monday, January 4th, 1909.

The Council do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

By Order,
F. STEVENS,
Clerk to the Council.

14th December, 1908.

Bilston Education Committee.
To School Furniture Contractors.

The Bilston Education Committee invite tenders for the Furnishing of the Boys', Girls', and Infant departments of the Bull Holes Council School, in accordance with approved specification and schedule.

The Committee do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

Form of tender, specification, and schedule may be obtained from the Education Offices, Town Hall, Bilston, and must be returned, endorsed "Tender for School Furniture," not later than the 16th January, 1909,

F. M. COOPER,
Secretary.

Education Office,
Town Hall, Bilston.

Borough of Lewisham.
Constructional Ironwork.
To Contractors and others.

The Council is prepared to receive tenders for supplying and erecting the necessary iron and steel work, and galvanized iron roofing, to cart sheds at the Council's Depôt at Old Road, Lee.

The drawings, specification, and forms of contract can be seen, and forms of tender obtained, at the Town Hall, Catford (Surveyor's Department), on and after Monday, the 21st day of December, 1908.

The tenders must be on forms issued by the Council, enclosed in an envelope

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CONTRACTS.

sealed and endorsed "Tender for Cart Sheds," and must be delivered by four o'clock on Tuesday, the 5th January, 1909, at the Town Hall, Catford, and placed in the box there provided for the purpose.

The works must be proceeded with immediately on obtaining the Borough Surveyor's order to commence, and the contractor must employ local labour as far as practicable in carrying out the work.

The contractor will be bound to pay to all workmen (except a reasonable number of legally bound apprentices) wages at rates not less, and to observe hours of labour not greater, than those set out in the Council's list, and such rates of wages and hours of labour, will be inserted in and form part of the Contract.

The Council does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

By order,
EDWD. WRIGHT,
Town Clerk.

Town Hall, Catford, S.E.
16th December, 1908.

Chislehurst Urban District Council.
Tenders for Annual Contracts.

The Council are prepared to receive tenders for the supply of broken granite, granite kerb and sett, tar-paving and tar, for one year from the 1st day of April, 1909.

Particulars, together with forms of tender, may be obtained on application being made at the Council offices.

Tenders, endorsed "Tender for ——" (as the case may be), must be delivered to me, the undersigned, not later than 4 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, the 19th day of January, 1909.

The Council do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender, and no tender will be considered unless made out on the Council s form.

By Order,
H. E. KNIGHT,
Clerk.

Council Offices, Chislehurst,
22nd December, 1908

County of Chester.
Parkside Asylum, Macclesfield.
To builders and contractors.

Tenders are required for the erection of two detached blocks for 45 patients each, at the above Asylum.

Plans and specifications can be seen at the Office of Mr. H. Beswick, F.R.I.B.A., County Architect, Chester, on and after Monday, December 14, and quantities obtained on deposit of £1, which will be returned on receipt of bona-fide tender.

Tenders are to be delivered to me at or before 10 a.m. on 18th January, 1909, endorsed "Tender for Detached Blocks, Parkside Asylum."

The lowest or any Tender will not necessarily be accepted.

ARTHUR C. PROCTER,
Clerk to Visitors.

23, King Edward Street, Macclesfield,
9th December, 1908.

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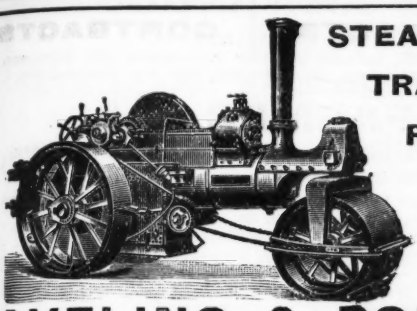

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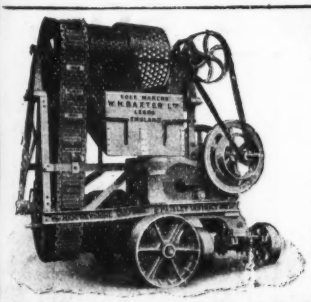

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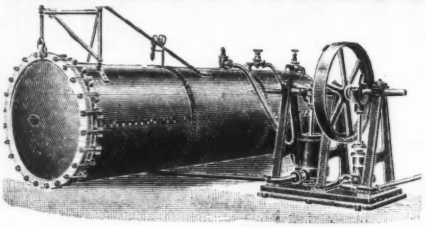

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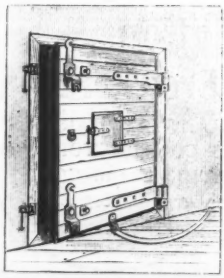

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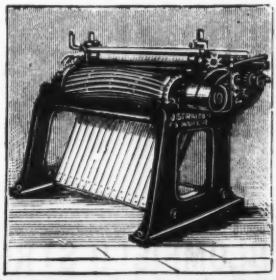

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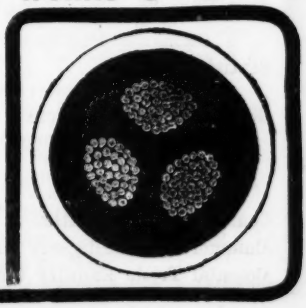

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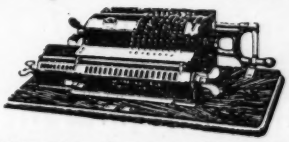

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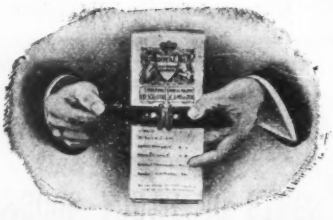

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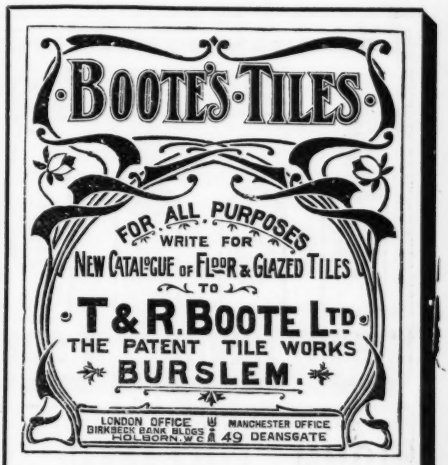

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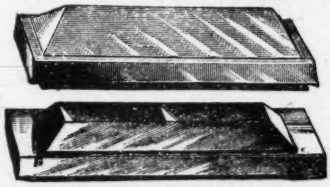

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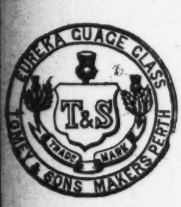

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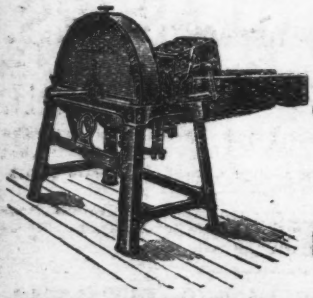

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